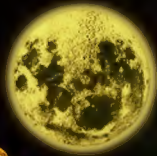




IF IT'S ABOUT THE HEREAFTER,  
YOU'LL FIND IT HERE!



# THE BIG BOOK OF DEATH

INTRODUCTION BY

**LUC SANTE**

Author of *EVIDENCE* and *LOWLIFE*

# THE BIG BOOK OF DEATH



BY  
**BRONWYN  
CARLTON**  
AND 67 OF  
THE WORLD'S TOP  
COMIC ARTISTS



**PARADOX PRESS**  
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# INTRODUCTION

BY  
LUC SANTE

Dearly beloved, we are gathered here to pay our respects to King Death, undisputed ruler of our days, measurer of our earthly frames, cashier of our chips, purchaser of our farms, punter of our buckets, ticket-agent for the western trains. We will all of us go to the prom with death one of these years, but we'll never be ready for the date, since our partner will pretty much always arrive at the door unexpectedly. Thus it is that we won't know what death looks like until it is too late to turn in a description. Nobody ever has — well, some people have come out of comas with reports of long tunnels and bright lights, but there's no way to prove these visions are anything other than dreams. In the meantime, all we can do is speculate, and we can do lots of that, since we know virtually everything about death except the crucial element.

Imagine you are an inhabitant of a distant planet, majoring in Earth Science and writing your senior thesis on food. You'd have a warehouse full of materials brought back from the third stone from the

sun: cookbooks, computer models of the salivary gland, chunks of Roquefort cheese, photographs of restaurants, bags of pretzel logs, x-rays of the digestive tract, trays of frozen meat patties, test tubes full of stomach acids, scratch-and-sniff cards for garlic and bacon and toast, videos of pie-eating contests, statistical charts of ice-cream melting rates, maybe even a live human in a glass case working his way through a nine-course banquet. You'd have everything at hand, in fact, but (since you yourself process carbon monoxide and have, strictly speaking, no mouth) not the knowledge of what it is like to eat. That's much the way it is with us and death. Except, of course, that one day we'll be handed that last piece of the puzzle, and it will be the last thing we ever learn.

That lingering question mark is just one of the features that make death such a perennial topic of fascination, but it underlies all the others. Death may be as ordinary as winter, but it still scares us because *our* death is unknown to us. Our death hangs over us by a hair, like the proverbial sword of Damocles, and even if we don't think about it consciously, every time we think of death at all we are

reminded of our own. That gives death its ironclad reliability as a dramatic convention. How many non-comedy movies have you seen in which nobody dies? Fear itself may be creepy, but to confront fear, to laugh at it, is positively sexy. As long as it is managed, boxed, fictionalized, anecdotalized, represented in a safe way, death satisfies. You might not much enjoy hanging around the aftermaths of bloody car crashes, and you probably would not have experienced pleasure as a tourist in Burundi in the spring of '94, but on the other hand you do have fun seeing movies by John Woo or Quentin Tarantino or Sam Peckinpah in which dozens or even hundreds of characters get blown away. Every bullet fired by a movie gun hits your adrenal gland; the more bullets fly, the more pumped you get. Every one of those bullets has your name on it, only it's written in disappearing ink. The fear is followed a microsecond later by relief. You feel bigger, momentarily.

A similar principle applies to deaths occurring in the real world (provided, again, that you are not actually present at the occurrence, and that they do not happen to someone you care deeply about), especially if they have something of the 300-pound cabbage about them — that is, if they are especially weird or stupid or ironic or dramatic, extreme without being an actual threat. I can't imagine that there is anybody reading this book who wasn't possessed, for some portion of childhood, with the idea that you could kill somebody on the sidewalk with a penny thrown off the top deck of the Empire State Building. A penny! Are you kidding? You couldn't stop thinking about it even after Mr. Bowser in science class pointed out that the penny would only hit the 88th floor setback. You

could imagine yourself on both the dispensing and receiving ends of the proposition. If you visited New York City, you'd be deliciously scared to walk down 34th Street. The whole idea encapsulated the iconic (the building), the improbable (the penny), and the terrifyingly easy (as William S. Burroughs, who ought to know, once put it, "No one owns life, but anybody who can pick up a frying pan owns death"), in a formula that not incidentally resembled that of a dirty joke. In those days, when sex and death were both misty abstractions, it might not always have been clear to you where one left off and the other began.

Well, it might not be entirely clear to you even now — some of the greatest minds have hit a sandbar while contemplating this point. In any event, those two colossal human properties are both located behind doors that are plastered with signs that say "Keep Away!" while prominently displaying eye-level peepholes that just about command you to look. So you do, feeling sweaty and a bit guilty. Once again, remember childhood: you'd be in a garage passing around somebody's father's skin mags one week, the next it would be atrocity pictures somebody else's grandfather brought back from the war. From week to week, it would be like experimenting with a giant switchboard of your reflexes and emotions: excitement, fear, embarrassment, wonder, nausea, guilt, laughter, perspiration — oh, the order and proportion would vary, of course. But in either case, while you were trying to convince your friends that you were cool, you'd seen it all before, in reality you were hanging off the edge, peering into the abyss. But you're cool nowadays, aren't you, sport? You'll display this book on your

coffee table, maybe bring it in to work and leave it on top of your desk. It's all part of your interest in the human estate.

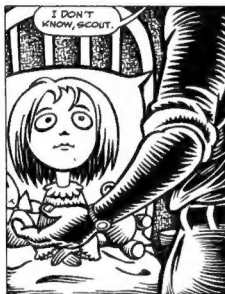
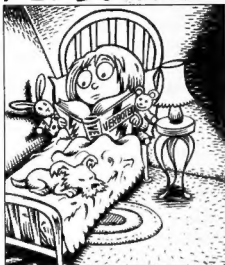
Your interest is so scientific that you're probably reading this in bed, eating cheese curls, awaiting a visit from sleep, death's kid brother, who is taking his time in coming around. It will be that way for the rest of the night: sleep will delay, you will continue reading, sleep will delay some more. Observe your detachment. Contemplate stoning, beheading, the electric chair, painless lethal injection, none of which could ever happen to you because, as we know, you are not a criminal, nor could you ever be — you are as spotless as a newborn anacephalic lamb. You will never be murdered, since you have no enemies and you live in the safest, most secure suburb in the United States. You drive like a parson on his way to church, boil your drinking water, bathe in a foam-lined tub, avoid attendance at contentious sports events, wear a hat when the thermometer dips below 50°, never answer the phone during electric storms, refuse to open questionable packages, insist on smoke-free hotels. You will probably never die. Unless, of course . . . a large bird flies straight into your windshield, a block of frozen urine released by an airliner picks your roof as its destination, a mislabeled can of tuna fish on your shelf contains a hitherto unknown strain of botulism, the first tornado in two hundred years happens to come barreling up your street. Let's face it: Fate has taped a target to your back.

But why worry? The book you are holding in your hands will put it all into perspective. Bronwyn Carlton, who wrote it, is famed for her weekly radio show on WFMU

in East Orange, N.J. featuring *News of the Dead*. What Elisabeth Kubler-Ross is to denial and acceptance, Bronwyn is to the informed chuckle, the clear-eyed stare, the knowing chill. She approaches death the way a human fly approaches vertigo, with a serene curiosity. Here she has marshaled the complicated subject, organized it with philosophical rigor, and assembled an all-star team of amazing cartoonists to make it dance across the page. In the course of these 200 pages she pries up dusty lids, pokes a light into forgotten corners, examines overwhelming enormities and tiny afterthoughts from the back pages of discarded newspapers, looks into nagging questions, throws in jolts of bracing sanity. By the time you are done reading, you will be ready to join the dance, take a skeletal hand in each of yours, go round and round, right foot left foot, that caterpillar step that runs all the way through history and won't stop until there are no more living.

**LUC SANTE** is the author of *Low Life* (Vintage Books), a chronicle of the dark side of New York City in the 19th century, and of *Evidence* (Noonday Books), which examines photographs of murder scenes taken by the New York Police Department between 1914 and 1918. He is not at all morbid, but he does own a chip from Baudelaire's grave. He lives in Brooklyn with his wife and their dog and cat.

# FOREWORD:



# CHAPTER ONE

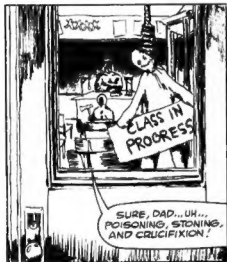
## MAKING A KILLING

### CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

Of all the industrialized Western nations, only the United States still practices capital punishment, and even within the U.S. there's no consensus as to method. Some states prefer old-fashioned techniques such as hanging (*page 17*) or the firing squad (*page 20*), while others use new-fangled technology like electricity (*page 23*) to put the probably-guilty to death. Some states don't have capital punishment at all, which leads to cases like that of Thomas Grasso, who was convicted of murder in both New York (no death penalty) and Oklahoma (lethal injection — see *page 31*). When he was sentenced to a life term in the former to be served *before* he could be put to death in the latter, Grasso fought to be sent immediately to Oklahoma so he wouldn't have to wait to die. This raises the obvious question: Which is the greater deterrent — life, or death?

# A SHORT HISTORY OF EXECUTION

ALL RIGHT, SON, LET'S BEGIN WITH A REVIEW. NAME ME THREE EARLY TYPES OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.

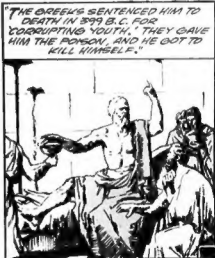


SURE, DAD...UH... POISONING, STONING, AND CRUCIFIXION!



VERY GOOD. CAN YOU DESCRIBE EACH ONE?

WELL, OKAY. POISONING WAS LIKE WHEN SOCRATES DRANK HEMLOCK.



THE GREEKS SENTENCED HIM TO DEATH IN 399 B.C. FOR "CORRUPTING YOUTH." THEY GAVE HIM THE POISON, AND HE GOT TO KILL HIMSELF."

AND CRUCIFIXION - THAT WAS MOSTLY WHAT ROMANS DID TO FOREIGN CRIMINALS AND CHRISTIANS. FIRST, THEY'D WHIP THE GUY. THAT'S CALLED "SCOURGING." THE POINT WAS, HE'D LOSE SO MUCH BLOOD, HE'D BE REALLY WEAK.

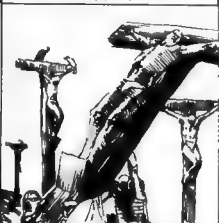


THEN HE HAD TO CARRY THE CROSS BAR OF THE CRUCIFIX TO WHEREVER THE UPRIGHT PART WAS. THEY'D GIVE HIM A DRINK OF BITTER WINE TO HELP KILL THE PAIN A LITTLE.

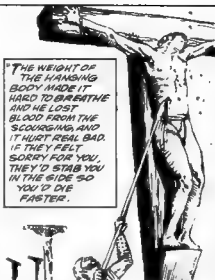


AFTER THAT, THEY THREW HIM ONTO HIS BACK AND DROVE 5-INCH SPIKES THROUGH HIS WRISTS BECAUSE IF YOU PUT NAILS THROUGH THE PALMS OF THE HANDS, THE WEIGHT OF THE BODY WILL JUST PULL THEM LOOSE."

"THEN THE CROSSBAR WENT UP ON THE UPRIGHT, AND THE GUY HUNG THERE FOR 2 OR 3 DAYS, BLEEDING AND STARVING WITH BUGS AND BIRDS GOING AT HIM.



"THE WEIGHT OF THE HANGING BODY MADE IT HARD TO BREATHE AND HE LOST BLOOD FROM THE SCOURGING, AND IT HURT REAL BAD. IF THEY FELT SORRY FOR YOU, THEY'D STAB YOU IN THE SIDE SO YOU'D DIE FASTER.



"AND STONING WAS IN THE NEAR EAST ABOUT THE SAME TIME, ABOUT THE FIRST CENTURY A.D. THEY'D TIE THE GUY'S HANDS BEHIND HIS BACK AND TAKE HIM OUT TO THE STONING PLACE.



"EVERYONE WOULD GET HIS OWN ROCK, AND THE ACCUSER GOT TO THROW THE FIRST STONE.



"THE POINT WAS TO NOT HIT HIM IN THE HEAD, SO HE'D STAY CONSCIOUS THE WHOLE TIME.

"FINALLY, HE'D BE COVERED IN A BIG PILE OF ROCKS AND THE WEIGHT WOULD CRUSH HIM TO DEATH. AFTER ST. STEPHEN GOT EXECUTED THIS WAY IN 35 A.D., STONING BECAME THE BIG STATIC WAY FOR EARLY CHRISTIANS TO DIE."



EXCELLENT! AND WHAT'S ANOTHER NAME FOR STONING?

UMMM...

LAPIDATION.

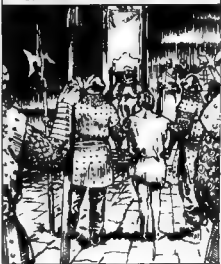


LAPIDATION, RIGHT, SO, WHAT'RE WE DOING TODAY?

ENGLAND IN THE MIDDLE AGES - PRESSING, BURNING, DRAWING AND QUARTERING.



"NOW, PRESSING WAS USED IN ENGLAND FROM THE 1300'S ON. THE ADVANTAGE WAS THAT YOU COULD USUALLY GET A CONFESSION BEFORE THE SUSPECT DIED."



"THE ACCUSED WAS STAKED SPREAD-EAGLED ON THE GROUND, WITH A PLAT BOARD ON HIS CHEST. STONES WERE PUT ON THE BOARD AND WEIGHT GRADUALLY, MAKING IT HARDER AND HARDER TO BREATHE.



"THE PRISONER COULD BE FED BREAD AND WATER AND KEPT ALIVE FOR DAYS. WHEN HE CONSESSED, THEY'D LOAD ON THE ROCKS AND CRUSH HIM TO DEATH.



"KING HENRY IV MADE A BIG ADVANCE IN DEATH TECHNOLOGY BY DEVELOPING THE FIRST STANDARD PRESSING WEIGHTS."



BUT WE DON'T GET TO USE PRESSING NOWADAYS, DO WE, DAD?

OH, NO. THEY STOPPED THAT BACK IN 1741.



"BACK THEN, PRESSING WAS MOST OFTEN USED FOR HERETICS. MAYOR OF YORK WAS PRESSED IN 1586 FOR BEING A CATHOLIC. WOMEN WERE PRESSED TOO, YOU SEE.



"BUT USUALLY WOMEN WERE BURNED ALIVE, AND IT WASN'T JUST JOAN OF ARC. BURNING WAS SUPPOSED TO BE SUITED TO WOMEN BECAUSE THE SENTENCE COULD BE CARRIED OUT WITH THEM KEEPING ALL THEIR CLOTHES ON.



"AND BEING TIED TO THE STAKE KEPT THEM FROM JUMPING AROUND IN AN UNSEEMLY MANNER--NOT LIKE WHEN THEY WERE HANGED, WHEN THEY'D THRASH AND KICK."



HERE'S WHAT THE LEGAL COMMENTATOR SIR WILLIAM BLACKSTONE SAID ABOUT IT: "AS DECENCY DUE TO THE SEX FORBIDS THE EXPOSING AND PUBLICLY MANGLING OF THEIR BODIES, THEIR SENTENCE IS...TO BE BURNED ALIVE."

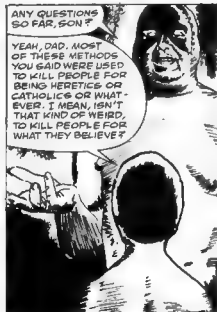
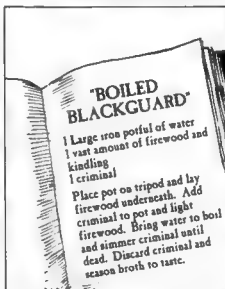
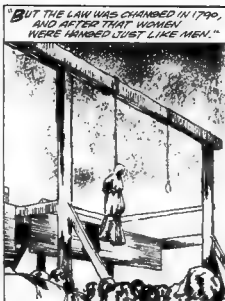


"SO THEY BURNED WOMEN UNTIL 1789, WHEN MS CHRISTIAN BOWMAN WAS PUT TO DEATH FOR COUNTERFEITING COINE.



"SHE WAS THE LAST ONE."





NO, NOT AT ALL, THAT WAS THE LAW AT THE TIME. WHEN BELIEF IS A CRIME, THEN THAT CRIME MUST BE PUNISHED, AND IF THE LAW CHANGES NEXT WEEK, THEN IT WON'T BE A CRIME ANYMORE. LIKE I ALWAYS SAY, WE ARE BUT THE INSTRUMENTS OF THE LAW.

HEY, MANVIN!

OH, OKAY, TELL ME ABOUT DRAWING AND QUARTERING.

"AH, THERE! YOU'VE HIT ON ONE OF MY FAVORITES, AND A METHOD USED MOSTLY FOR TREASON RATHER THAN HERESY. THERE ARE TWO TYPES --



"--RUSSIAN AND ENGLISH."

"IN RUSSIA, THEY'D JUST TIE THE PRISONER'S LEGS AND ARMS TO FAVOR DISSENT! HORSES, AND AWAY THEY'D GO!"



"THE LIMBS WOULD BE BADLY DISLOCATED, IF NOT ENTIRELY REMOVED."



THEN THE PRISONER WOULD BE BEHEADED.

"OF COURSE, IN ENGLAND IT WAS MORE SUBTLE--THE CRIMINAL WAS 'DRAWN'--DRAGGED ALONG THE GROUND--TO THE PLACE OF EXECUTION."



"THEN HE WAS GENTLY HUNG--BUT NOT KILLED--WHILE HIS OUTS WERE 'DRAWN' OUT AND BURNED BEFORE HIS EYES."

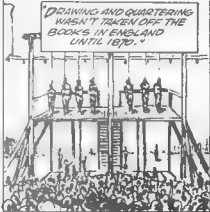


"AND THEN HE WAS DECAPITATED, AND AFTER THAT HIS BODY WAS CUT INTO FOUR PIECES."



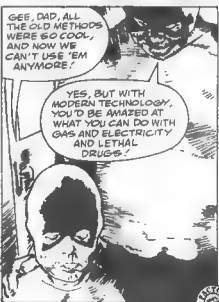
"THE LAST TIME THIS SENTENCE WAS CARRIED OUT WAS FEBRUARY 21, 1803, IN LONDON, AGAINST THE IRISH PATRIOT EDWARD SESPARD AND SIX OF HIS MEN."

"DRAWING AND QUARTERING WASN'T TAKEN OFF THE BOOKS IN ENGLAND UNTIL 1870."



GEE, DAD, ALL THE OLD METHODS WERE SO COOL, AND NOW WE CAN'T USE 'EM ANYMORE!

YES, BUT WITH MODERN TECHNOLOGY, YOU'D BE AMAZED AT WHAT YOU CAN DO WITH GAS AND ELECTRICITY AND LETHAL DRUGS!



HEAD'S UP, CHAPS!  
IT'S TIME FOR --

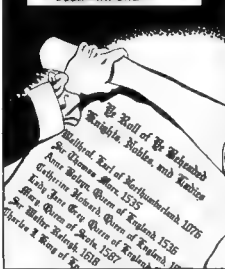
# DECAPITATION!



AH, YES--DECAPITATION! AN HONORABLE ENDING, MUCH NICER THAN HANGING. THERE'S NONE OF THAT UNSEEMLY FLAILING ABOUT, NOT TO MENTION... WELL, VOIDING, YOU KNOW, REALLY, HANGING IS SUITABLE ONLY FOR THE LOWER CLASSES, WHEREAS BEHEADING IS A DEATH FIT FOR A KING!



A... THE BEST FAMILIES HAD DECAPITATIONS.



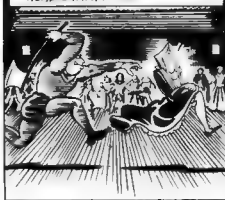
"DUE TO THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE NOBILITY, A VERY RIGID ETIQUETTE WAS DEVELOPED FOR BEHEADINGS."



"IT'S REALLY TOO BAD WHEN PEOPLE FORGET THEIR MANNERS, DON'T YOU THINK? TAKE HARGREAVE, FOLEY, COUNTESS OF SALISBURY. HENRY VIII, THAT OLD TUDOR, DECIDED TO CUT OFF HER HEAD."



"AND EVEN THOUGH EVERYTHING WAS DONE JUST AS IT SHOULD BE, SHE SIMPLY REFUSED TO BEHAVE. SHE WOULDN'T PUT HER HEAD ON THE BLOCK, AND SHE RAN ABOUT, AND FINALLY THEY JUST HAD TO HACK HER TO BITS 'ON THE RUN', AS IT WERE. OF COURSE, SHE HAD A HEAD START. HAW!"



"THE GREAT ARGUMENT WAS, WHICH WAS BETTER -- 'THE SWORD OR THE AX?'"



"THE MOST DISTINGUISHED ALWAYS CHOSE THE SWORD. ANNE BOLEYN, BEING QUEEN OF ENGLAND AT THE TIME, GOT TO PICK HER OWN EXECUTIONER, AND SHE CHOSE A MASTER SWORDSMAN FROM FRANCE."



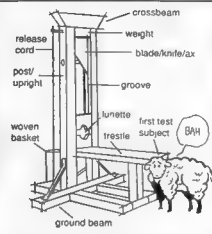
"KING LOUIS XVI, MARIE ANTOINETTE, ALL THE CAKE-EATING NOBILITY OF FRANCE LOST THEIR HEADS OVER THE NEW EXECUTION MACHINE."



"MY FAVORITE STORY IS THAT DR. GUILLOTIN HIMSELF ENDED UP BEING GUILLOTINED. UNFORTUNATELY, IT TURNS OUT THAT HE DIED IN HIS BED IN 1814."



"BUT AS USUAL, IT WAS THE FRENCH WHO RUINED EVERYTHING. IN 1792, THEY INVENTED THE GUILLOTINE, AND THAT WAS SIMPLY THE END OF BEHEADING AS A DISTINGUISHED METHOD OF DEATH."



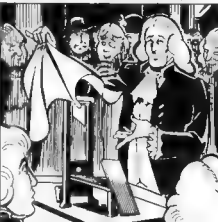
"2,498 PEOPLE WERE GUILLOTINED DURING THE FRENCH REVOLUTION, AND OBVIOUSLY THEY COULDN'T ALL BE QUALITY. THERE WERE THIEVES, ROBBERS - COMMON CRIMINALS!"



"AW, THAT'S TOO BAD, 'CAUSE OTHERWISE YOU COUL'D'VE SAID THAT HE SHOULD'VE QUIT WHILE HE WAS..."



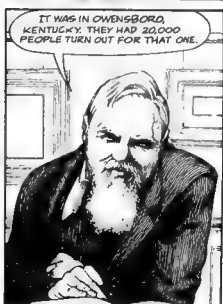
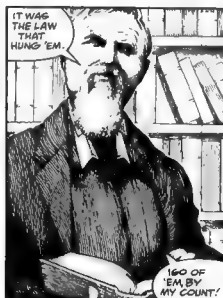
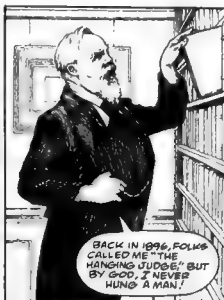
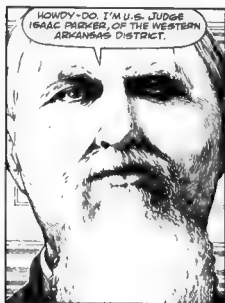
"IT WASN'T EVEN DR. GUILLOTIN'S INVENTION; HE WAS JUST THE ONE WHO URGED THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY TO FIND A 'HUMANELY' WAY TO EXECUTE ALL CLASSES OF PEOPLE. THE REVOLUTION MADE EVERYTHING DEMOCRATIC - INCLUDING DEATH."

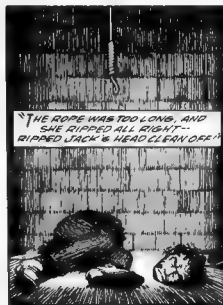
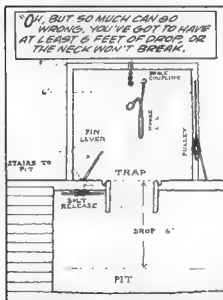
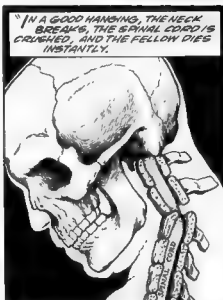


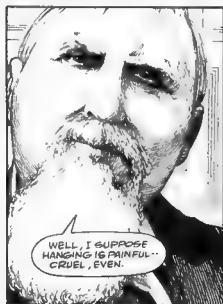
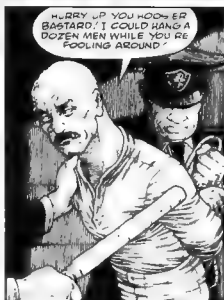
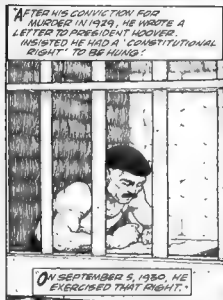
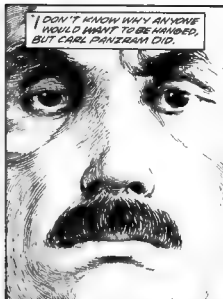
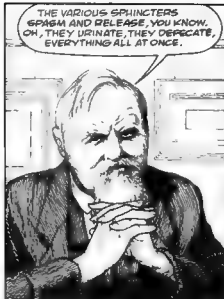
"AND EVEN NOW, NO ONE'S REALLY SURE THAT IT IS A HUMANE DEATH. SCIENTISTS HAVE PERFORMED ALL SORTS OF EXPERIMENTS TO SEE WHETHER THE SEVERED HEAD STILL THINKS OR FEELS."

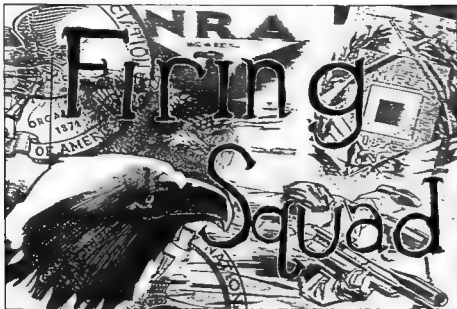


# A VISIT WITH THE HANGING JUDGE













THEY GOT 5  
RIFLEMEN  
JUST 30 FEET  
AWAY FROM  
YA.



FOUR OF THE GUNS  
GET REAL BULLETS...

...BUT ONE'S  
GOT A BLANK.



THAT WAY THEY  
CAN ALL THINK  
MAYBE THEY'RE  
THE ONE THAT DIDN'T  
KILL NOBODY  
-THE WIMPS-

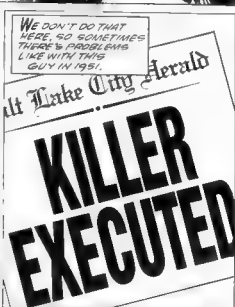


IF ALL 4 BULLETS GO  
THROUGH THE HEART  
AT ONCE, YOU DIE QUICK

THEY SAY IT  
DOESN'T HURT.



IN OTHER  
COUNTRIES  
THEY SHOOT A  
BULLET THROUGH  
YOUR HEAD, TOO...  
JUST TO MAKE  
SURE.



WE DON'T DO THAT  
HERE, SO SOMETIMES  
THERE'S PROBLEMS  
LIKE WITH THIS  
GUY IN 1951.

Salt Lake City Herald  
**KILLER  
EXECUTED**



ALL 4 SHOTS  
HIT HIM...

...BUT NOT ONE  
THROUGH  
THE HEART

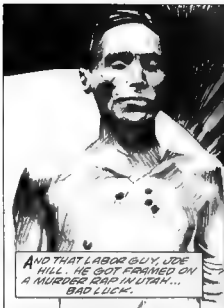


THE POOR SONOFABITCH  
BLED TO DEATH.



THE FIRING SQUAD'S  
BIG FOR SALES

THEY DID MATH WAR!  
WITH A FIRING SQUAD



AND THAT LABOR GUY, JDE  
HILL. HE GOT FRAMED ON  
A MURDER RAP IN UTAH...  
BAD LUCK.



BUT THE BIG  
ONE, THE ONE  
EVERYBODY KNOWS,  
IS JERRY GILMORE.



IN APRIL OF '76  
HE GOT PAROLED  
OUT OF THE PEN  
IN ILLINOIS.



BY JULY, HE WAS  
DOIN' CRIMES

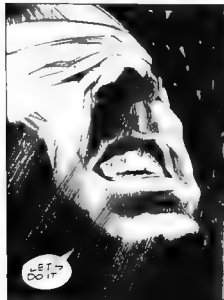


TOO BAD HE DID  
'EM IN UTAH



DO YOU HAVE  
ANYTHING  
TO SAY?

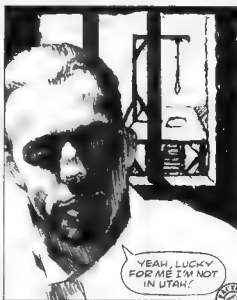
YEAH, HE WANTED  
TO DIE, SO ON  
JANUARY 17, 1977,  
HE GOT WHAT  
HE WANTED



LET  
DO IT

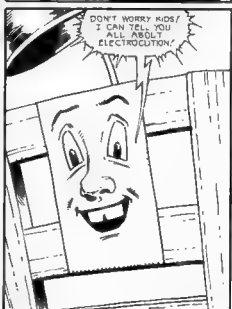
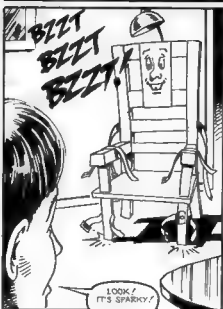
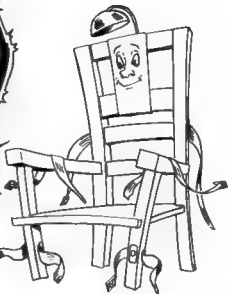


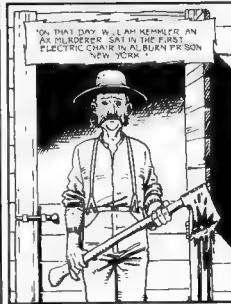
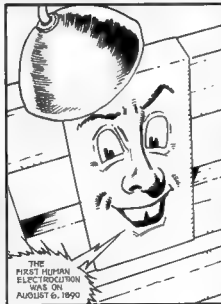
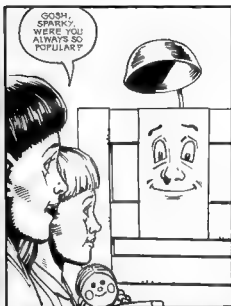
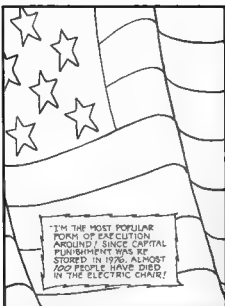
GILMORE WAS THE FIRST  
PERSON THEY EXECUTED  
AFTER THE SUPREME COURT  
LET CAPITAL PUNISHMENT  
BACK IN, IN '76

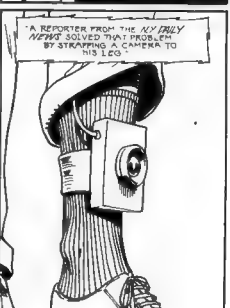
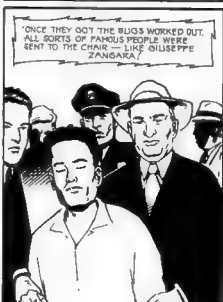
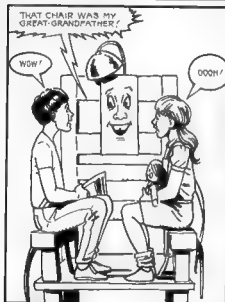


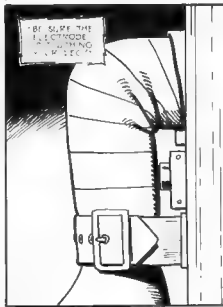
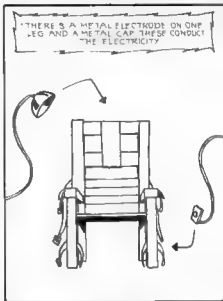
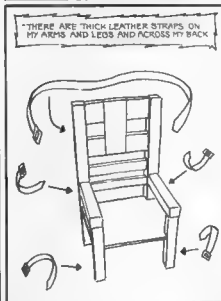
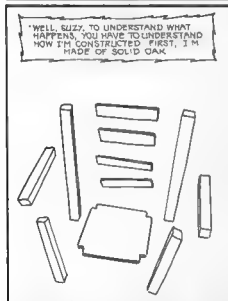
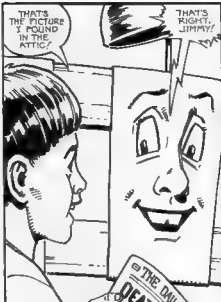
YEAH, LUCKY  
FOR ME I'M NOT  
IN UTAH!

# **BZZT BZZT!** **HEY, KIDS! IT'S OLD SPARKY!**










"THE METAL SKULLCAP FITS SNUGLY  
ON YOUR HEAD"



A hand is shown operating a switch mechanism. Above the switch, a sign reads: "WHEN YOU'RE ALL READY, THE EXECUTIONER THROWS THE SWITCH AND..."

"THE FIRST CHARGE & 2500 VOLTS STRAIGHT INTO YOUR BRAIN"

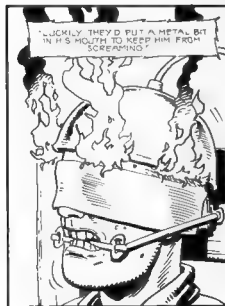
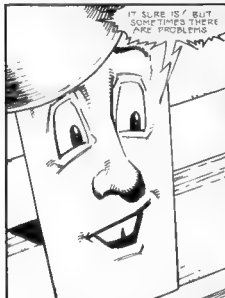
"YOUR BRAIN FRIES — IN FACT IT ALMOST BOILS!"

"THE SECOND CHARGE OF 1000 VOLTS DISRUPTS THE ELECTRICAL CIRCUIT IN YOUR HEART"

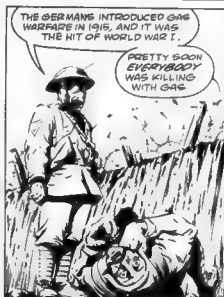
"YOUR HEART STOPS BEAT NO"

"THE SECOND CHARGE OF 1000 VOLTS DISRUPTS THE ELECTRICAL CIRCUIT IN YOUR HEART"

"YOUR HEART STOPS BEAT NO"







ONCE THE EXECUTION PROCEDURE BEGINS IT CAN'T BE STOPPED. IN 1957, THE GOVERNOR OF CALIFORNIA CALLED ABOUT 30 SECONDS TOO LATE TO SAVE BURTON ABBOTT.



THE GAS FUMES RISE QUICKLY, BUT DEATH IS NOT PARTICULARLY FAST.



SOON, THE VICTIMS START GASPING AND WHEEZING LIKE FISH OUT OF WATER.



THEY THRASH AND SCREAM AND CRY.



OFTEN THEY STRUGGLE SO HARD THEY BREAK FREE OF A STRAP.



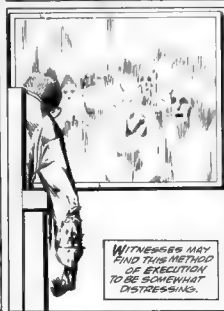
THEIR FACES TURN PURPLE. THEIR TONGUES STICK OUT. THEY DROOL.



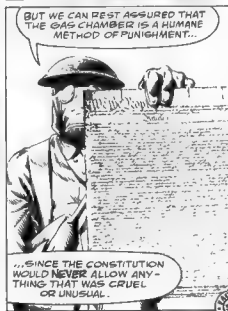
TEN MINUTES' WELL, ASPHYXIATION IS SLOW BUT SURE.



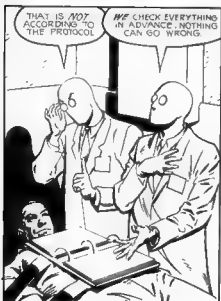
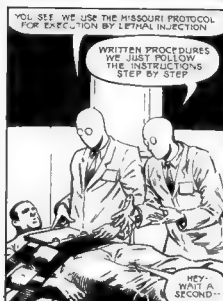
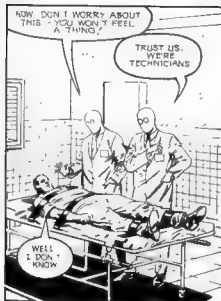
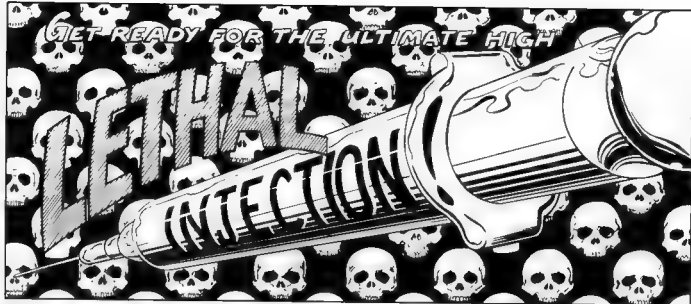
WITNESSES MAY FIND THIS METHOD OF EXECUTION TO BE SOMEWHAT DISTRESSING.

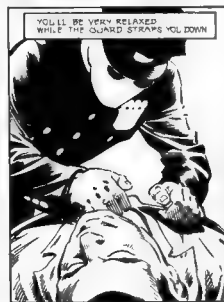
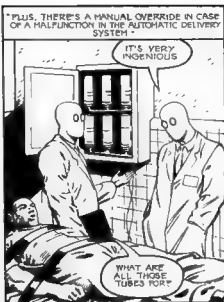


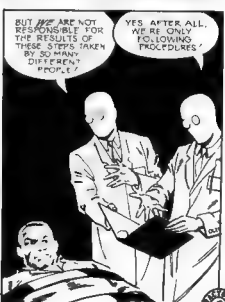
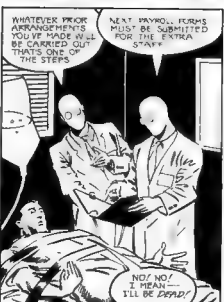
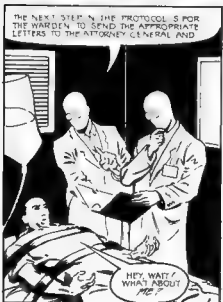
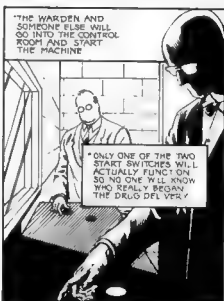
BUT WE CAN REST ASSURED THAT THE GAS CHAMBER IS A HUMANE METHOD OF PUNISHMENT...



...SINCE THE CONSTITUTION WOULD NEVER ALLOW ANYTHING THAT WAS CRUEL OR UNUSUAL.







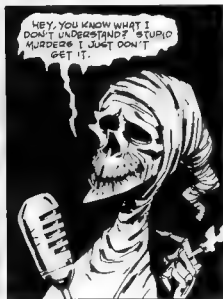


# CHAPTER TWO

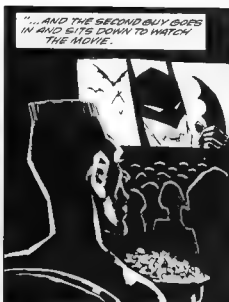
## NEVER SAY DIE

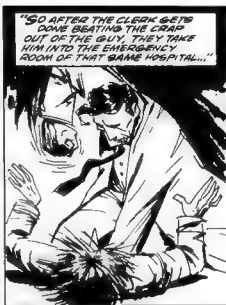
### HOMICIDE AND SUICIDE

Homicide and suicide may seem to be exactly opposite methods of death, yet they're very much alike in what they leave behind: a dead body, sure, but also a lot of questions and, often, a certain amount of anger. The main question, in both cases, is always "Why?" *Why* does one man beat another to death over a can of soda (page 36)? *Why* do postal employees so often go berserk and become mass murderers (page 40)? *Why* do some teenagers choose the suicide "solution" to their typical adolescent problems (page 47)? The anger, of course, is inherent in the question — so many of these deaths seem completely senseless. In fact, there *isn't* any answer, they *are* inexplicable — and that's just what makes them fascinating. As Nancy Kerrigan so eloquently put it: **WHY?**





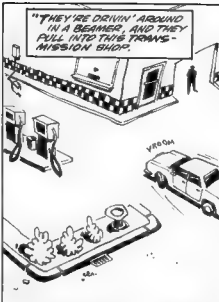




"HEY, YOU THINK THAT'S SOME-  
THING--THERE WERE THESE  
THREE GUYS UP IN QUEENS..."



"THEY'RE DRIVEN' AROUND  
IN A BEAMER, AND THEY  
PULL INTO THIS TRANS-  
MISSION SHOP."



"SO, THEY ASK THE MECHANIC  
TO FIX THE WHEELS ON THEIR  
BMW AND HE SAYS..."

WE'RE A  
TRANSMISSION  
SHOP, WE DON'T  
DO WHEELS.



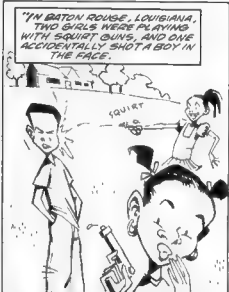
SO THEY  
SHOT HIM  
DEAD.



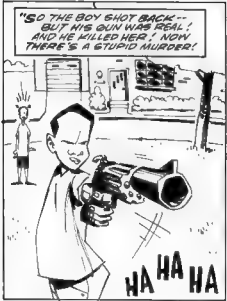
BUT SERIOUSLY, FOLKS,  
IT'S NOT JUST NEW  
YORK WHERE THE  
STUFF HAPPENS.



"I'M BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA.  
TWO GIRLS WERE PLAYING  
WITH SQUIRT GUNS, AND ONE  
ACCIDENTALLY SHOT A BOY IN  
THE FACE."



"SO THE BOY SHOT BACK--  
BUT HIS GUN WAS REAL!  
AND HE KILLED HER! NOW  
THERE'S A STUPID MURDER!"

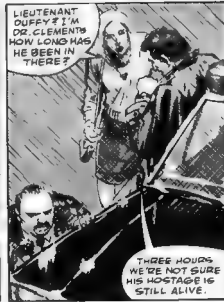
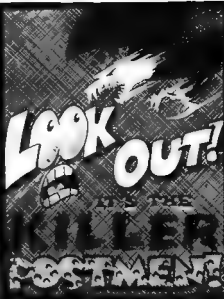
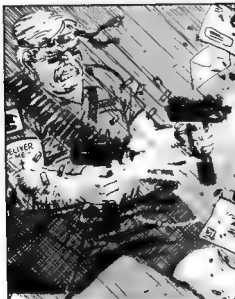


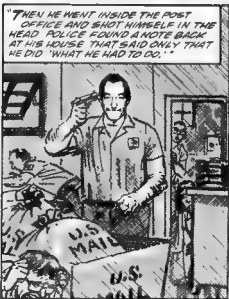
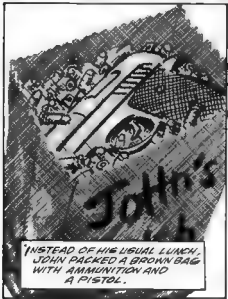
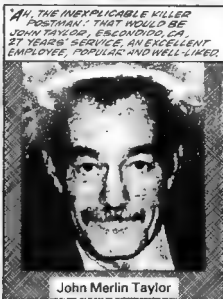
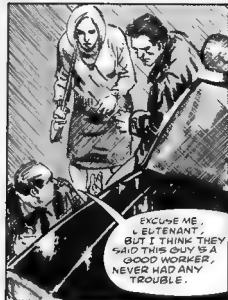
HEY, YOU'VE  
BEEN A GREAT  
AUDIENCE!  
THANKS!  
GOOD  
NIGHT!

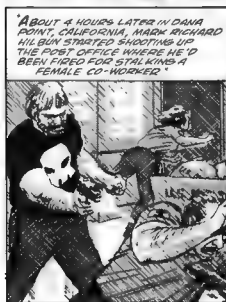
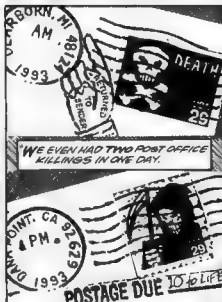
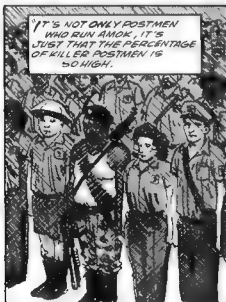


MAN, THAT  
GUY KILLS  
ME

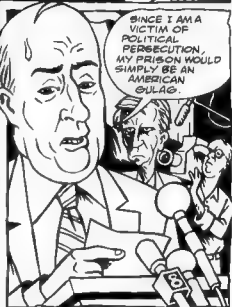


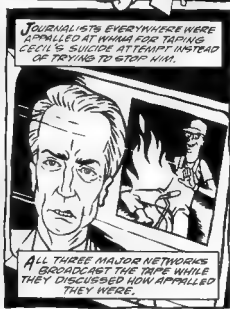






experience--  
The **THRILL** of AGONY--  
--The **VIOLENCE** of TV in  
**THE WIDE WORLD OF**  
**Death!!**







SOMETIMES A PUBLIC DEATH HELPS TO MAKE A POINT. NORMAN MORGISON SET HIMSELF ON FIRE OUTSIDE THE PENTAGON IN 1965 TO PROTEST THE VIETNAM WAR.



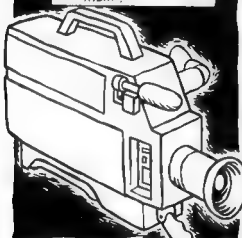
SO DID A NUMBER OF BUDDHIST MONKS IN SAIGON.



OF COURSE, SOME PEOPLE IN VIETNAM DIDN'T CARE WHAT THEY PUT ON TELEVISION.



DOES THE CAMERA'S PRESENCE DISCOURAGE ATROCITIES, OR PROVOKE THEM?



WHEN CONGRESSMAN LEO RYAN WENT TO GUYANA TO INVESTIGATE THE PEOPLE'S TEMPLE SETTLEMENT, HE TOOK PLENTY OF REPORTERS WITH HIM.



PEOPLE'S TEMPLE LEADER JIM JONES WASN'T HAPPY ABOUT THE PUBLICITY.

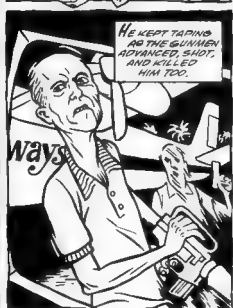
GUNMEN SURROUNDED REP. RYAN'S PLANE AS HIS PARTY PREPARED TO LEAVE.



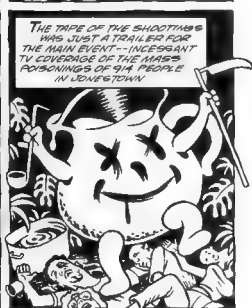
NBC CAMERAMAN ROBERT BROWN WAS TAPING AS REP. RYAN AND 3 OTHERS WERE SHOT AND KILLED.



HE KEPT TAPING AS THE GUNMEN ADVANCED, SHOT, AND KILLED HIM TOO.



THE TAPE OF THE SHOOTINGS WAS JUST A TRAILER FOR THE MAIN EVENT--INCESSANT TV COVERAGE OF THE MASS POISONINGS OF 914 PEOPLE IN JONES TOWN.



NOWADAYS, OF COURSE, THERE ARE ENTIRE TV PROGRAMS DEVOTED TO UNPLEASANT BEHAVIOR. IN JANUARY, 1998, OCCURRO ASI WAS TAPING EMILIO NINETEEN AT HIS DAUGHTER'S GRAVE FOR A STORY ON THE GIRL'S SUICIDE.



SUDDENLY, EMILIO'S EX-WIFE MARITZA APPEARED UNEXPECTEDLY. EMILIO BLAMED HER FOR THE GIRL'S DEATH.



EMILIO RAN TO HIS CAR, GRABBED A 9-MM. GUN, AND SHOT MARITZA IN THE HEAD.



HE KEPT SHOOTING EVEN AFTER SHE HIT THE GROUND--AND SO DID THE OCCURRO ASI CAMERA CREW.

A MURDER ON CAMERA-- THAT'S NEWS, RIGHT?



NOT ALL TV DEATHS ARE BROADCAST IN JUNE OF 1971, HEALTH FOOD ADVOCATE JEROME RODALE DIED WHILE TAPING THE DICK CAVETT TALK SHOW.



RODALE DISCUSSED HIS DIETARY PRACTICES.

TRY SOME ASPARAGUS BOILED IN URINE-- VERY HEALTHFUL.



WHEN ANOTHER GUEST BEGAN DISCUSSING POLITICS, RODALE SLUMPED FORWARD.

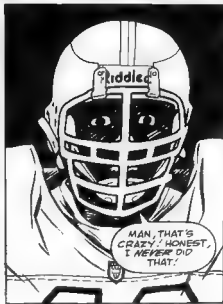
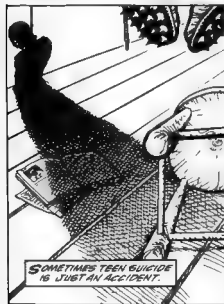


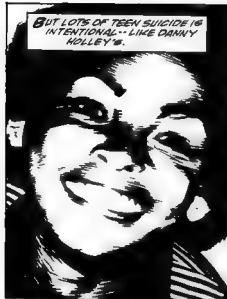
HEALTH GURU RODALE HAD DIED ON CAMERA AT THE AGE OF 72, BUT THE SHOW WAS NEVER BROADCAST. IRONY JUST ISN'T AS NEWS-WORTHY AS GROSSNESS.



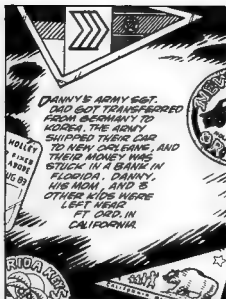
# Teen

# SUICIDE





BUT LOTS OF TEEN SUICIDE IS INTENTIONAL - LIKE DANNY HOLLEY'S.



DANNY'S ARMY SGT. DAD GOT TRANSFERRED FROM GERMANY TO KOREA. THE ARMY SHIPPED THEIR CAR TO NEW ORLEANS, AND THEIR MONEY WAS STUCK IN A BANK IN FLORIDA. DANNY, HIS MOM, AND 5 OTHER KIDS WERE LEFT NEAR FT. ORD. IN CALIFORNIA.

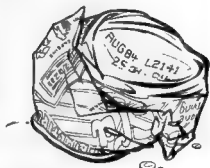


DANNY ENDED UP COLLECTING CANS FOR MONEY TO BUY FOOD FOR HIS FAMILY.



IF THERE WAS ONE LESS MOUTH TO FEED, THINGS WOULD BE BETTER.

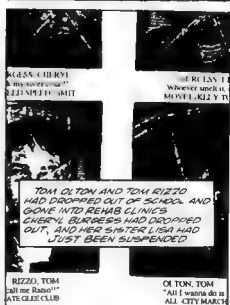
ON AUGUST 27, 1964, DANNY HOLLEY HANGED HIMSELF FOR THE GOOD OF HIS FAMILY. HE WAS 15 YEARS OLD.



MOST KIDS WHO KILL THEMSELVES DON'T SEE ANY OTHER WAY OUT. FOR INSTANCE, 30 % OF ALL TEEN SUICIDES ARE GAY KIDS WHO WOULD RATHER BE DEAD.



LOTS OF BUICKOUTS TRY TO KILL THEMSELVES. THEY DO DRUGS, THEY DRINK, THEY MESS UP IN SCHOOL, AND THEY GET DEPRESSED. IN BERGENFIELD, NEW JERSEY, 4 KIDS OFFERED THEMSELVES ONE NIGHT IN 1987.



ACCESS: CHERYL & MYSTERY "RED SPEED LIMIT"

RE BL LN 14  
Whoever smelt it  
BOMBYL KIL Y TU

TOM OLTON AND TOM RIZZO HAD DROPPED OUT OF SCHOOL AND GONE INTO REHAB CLINICS. CHERYL BURGESS HAD DROPPED OUT, AND HER SISTER LISA HAD JUST BEEN SUSPENDED.

RIZZO, TOM  
call me Rizzo!!  
ATE BLUE CLUB

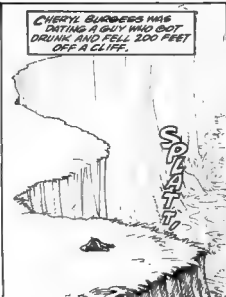
OLTON, TOM  
"All I wanna do is  
ALL CITY MARCY

BERGENFIELD KIDS WERE GETTING DRUNK AND DYING ALL OVER. TWO GUYS GOT HIT BY TRAINS. ANOTHER GUY WALKED INTO A POND AND DROWNED.

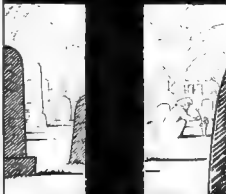


WERE THESE REALLY ACCIDENTS?

CHERYL BURGESS WAS DATING A GUY WHO GOT DRUNK AND FELL 200 FEET OFF A CLIFF.



BEFORE SHE DROOPED OUT, CHERYL WOULD SKIP CLASSTO VISIT THE GRAVE.



ON MARCH 17, THE TWO TOMS, CHERYL, AND LISA WENT OUT DRIVING AROUND.



THEY TRIED TO GUY JUST THE HOLE FROM A GAS STATION'S CAR VACUUM, BUT THE ATTENDANT SAID NO.



COSTER KIDS WROTE SEX



THE KIDS DROVE TO AN EMPTY GARAGE THAT WAS A STONER HANGOUT. THEY LOCKED THE DOOR, LEFT THE CAR RUNNING, AND WERE ALL DEAD WITHIN AN HOUR.

THE CASE GOT A LOT OF ATTENTION.

Oct 5, 1987

# FOUR TEENS FOUND DEAD!

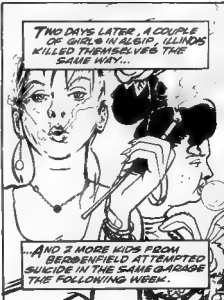
FRIENDS TO THE END

Bergenfield teens die in pact

# SUICIDE SOLUTION

LARGEST CIRCULATION OF ANY PAPER IN AMERICA

TWO DAYS LATER, A COUPLE OF GIRLS IN ALBINO LINDS KILLED THEMSELVES THE SAME WAY...



AND 2 MORE KIDS FROM BERGENFIELD ATTEMPTED SUICIDE IN THE SAME GARAGE THE FOLLOWING WEEK.

PARENTS CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHY THEIR KIDS WANT TO DIE, SO THEY BLAME HEAVY METAL MUSIC. THEY THINK IT'S "SATANIC" OR SOME-THING.





IN 1984, A KID SHOT HIMSELF IN THE HEAD AFTER LISTENING TO AN OZZY OSBOURNE TAPE FOR FIVE HOURS.



IN 1986, ANOTHER KID SHOT HIMSELF IN THE HEAD WHILE LISTENING TO "BLIZZARD OF OZZ". THE PARENTS SUED OZZY-- THEY THOUGHT THE MUSIC WAS TO BLAME FOR THEIR KID'S DEATH.



THE JUDGE RULED THAT OZZY'S LYRICS WEREN'T MEANT TO ENCOURAGE SUICIDE.

OF COURSE, IF THE PARENTS HAD LISTENED TO "SUICIDE SOLUTION" EVEN ONCE, THEY WOULD HAVE KNOWN THAT.



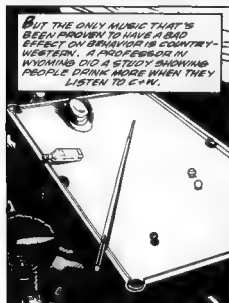
WHEN THEY WERE KIDS, THE SAME PARENTS WHO COMPLAIN ABOUT HEAVY METAL THOUGHT THE BEATLES WERE GREAT. WELL, THE BEATLES INSPIRED CHARLIE MANGSON.



IN 1987, A GUY IN AUSTRALIA SAID THAT BOB DYLAN'S MUSIC HAD GIVEN HIM THE STRENGTH TO KICK HIS MOTHER TO DEATH.



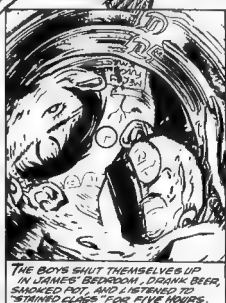
FOLK MUSIC MAKES A LOT OF PEOPLE WANT TO KILL.



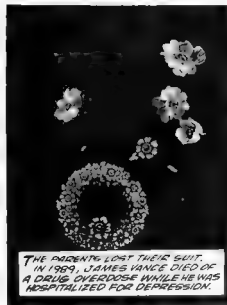
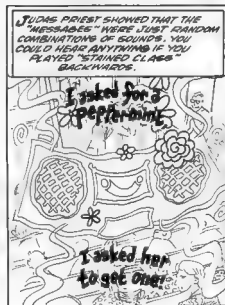
BUT THE ONLY MUSIC THAT'S BEEN PROVEN TO HAVE A BAD EFFECT ON BEHAVIOR IS COUNTRY-WESTERN. A PROFESSOR IN WYOMING DID A STUDY SHOWING PEOPLE DRINK MORE WHEN THEY LISTEN TO C.M.W.



EVEN THOUGH THEY LIVED IN NEVADA, RAYMOND BELKNAP AND JAMES VANCE WEREN'T INTO COUNTRY MUSIC -- THEY LIKED METAL. ON DECEMBER 18, 1985, RAY GAVE JAMES A JUDAS PRIEST ALBUM FOR CHRISTMAS.



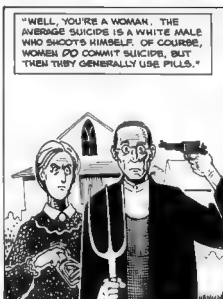
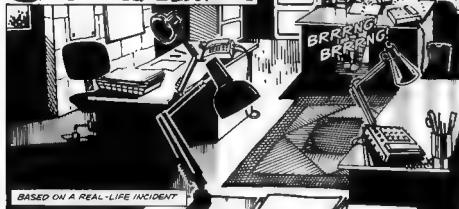
THE BOYS SHUT THEMSELVES UP IN JAMES'S BEDROOM, DRANK BEER, SMOKED POT, AND LISTENED TO "STAINED GLASS" FOR FIVE HOURS.

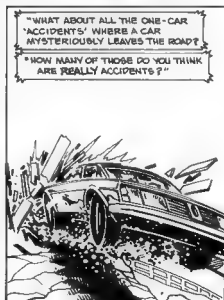
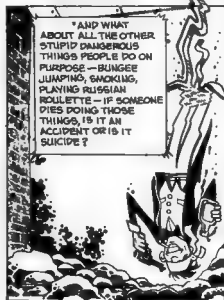
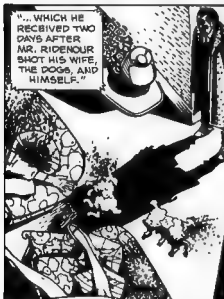
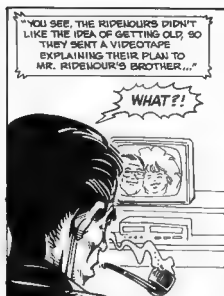
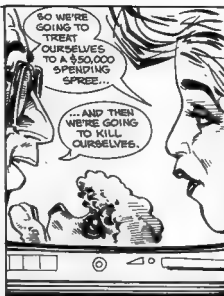
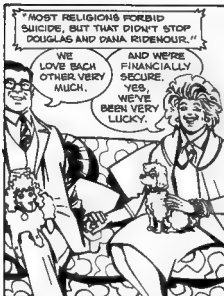


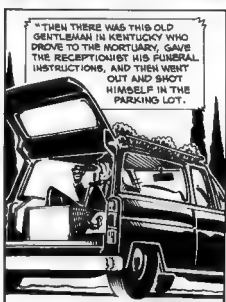
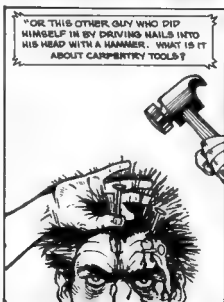


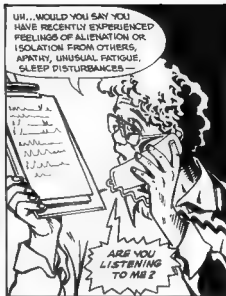


# SUICIDE











HE...O.EVERYBODY  
NICE -FEELING  
YOU AGAIN

# THE QUALITY OF MERCY



TODAY ON "NEWS OF THE  
DEAD" WE'RE TAKING A SPECIAL  
LOOK AT EUTHANASIA - YOU  
KNOW, MERCY KILLING



WE'VE TALKED A LOT IN THE  
PAST ABOUT EMOTIONAL SUICIDES -  
PEOPLE WHO KILL THEMSELVES  
BECAUSE THEIR FAVORITE TEAM  
LOSES...

AND THE FINAL  
SCORE, 4 TO 2:



... OR WHO JUMP OFF A  
BUILDING BECAUSE THEY'RE  
HAVING TROUBLE WITH THE  
GAS COMPANY OR SOME-  
THING.

BUT WHAT ABOUT  
RATIONAL SUICIDES?

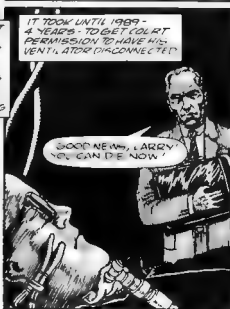


WHAT ABOUT  
LARRY McAFFEE?



HE WOKE UP A  
QUADRIPLEGIC

HE COULDN'T  
DO ANY OF  
THE THINGS  
HE LOVED  
ANYMORE,  
LIKE RIDING  
HIS BIKE,  
OR MOVING  
OR BREATHING



IT TOOK UNTIL 1989 -  
4 YEARS - TO GET COURT  
PERMISSION TO HAVE HIS  
VENTILATOR DISCONNECTED

GOOD NEWS, LARRY  
YOU CAN DIE NOW

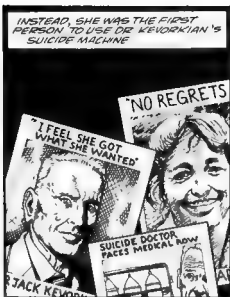
HE WRECKED HIS MOTORCYCLE  
IN AN ACCIDENT DOWN IN  
GEORGIA IN 1985.



LARRY McAFFEE COULD HAVE MOVED. HE COULD HAVE "KILLED HIMSELF" WHENEVER HE WANTED. BUT IF HE COULD HAVE MOVED, HE WOULDN'T HAVE WANTED TO END HIS LIFE



IF JANET ADKINS HAD GONE HOME AND SHOT HERSELF WHEN SHE WAS DIAGNOSED WITH ALZHEIMER'S, ONLY HER FAMILY AND FRIENDS WOULD HAVE CARED



INSTEAD, SHE WAS THE FIRST PERSON TO USE DR. KEVORKIAN'S SUICIDE MACHINE



JANET ADKINS WASN'T IN PAIN. LARRY McAFFEE WASN'T EVEN SICK

DID THEY HAVE THE RIGHT TO HAVE HELP IN ENDING THEIR LIVES?



AND WHAT ABOUT LITTLE SAMMY LINARES?



SAMUEL LINARES OF CIGERO, IL, SON OF A HOUSE PAINTER AND A HOUSEWIFE, FOUND A BALLOON ON THE FLOOR IN AUGUST, 1988. HE WAS 8 MONTHS OLD.

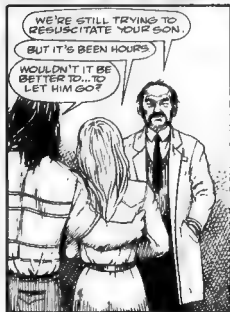


OH MY GOD! SEND AN AMBULANCE! THE BABY SWALLOWED SOMETHING!

HE'S NOT BREATHING!



PLEASE HELP MY BABY! OH GOD, PLEASE LET SAMMY LIVE!



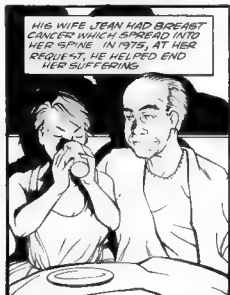
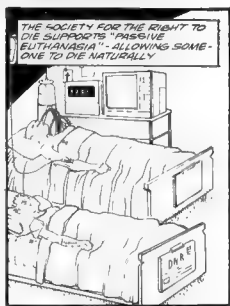
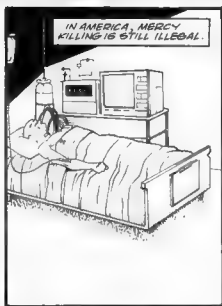
WE'RE STILL TRYING TO RESUSCITATE YOUR SON.

BUT IT'S BEEN HOURS.

WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER TO... TO LET HIM GO?

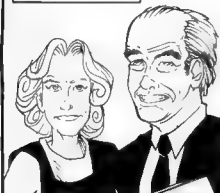


# the RIGHT TO DIE





WITHIN A YEAR,  
DEREK REMARRIED.



HE WROTE A BEST-SELLING BOOK  
ABOUT HIS FIRST WIFE'S SUICIDE,  
AND FOUNDED THE HEMLOCK  
SOCIETY WITH HIS NEW WIFE,  
ANN

THEY LIVED HAPPILY EVER AFTER  
UNTIL 1989, WHEN ANN FOUND  
THAT SHE TOO HAD BREAST CANCER.



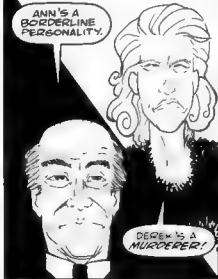
OF COURSE SHE THOUGHT DEREK  
WOULD BE THERE FOR HER, LIKE  
HE WAS FOR JEAN.



IT'S  
JUST A  
LITTLE  
CANCER



ANN'S A  
BORDERLINE  
PERSONALITY.



WHERE WAS THE ROMANTIC  
DEATH SHE'D DREAMED OF?



2 YEARS AFTER HER CANCER WAS  
DIAGNOSED, ANN WENT INTO THE  
WOODS WITH SOME BOOFE AND A  
BOTTLE OF PILLS



IN THE MEANTIME, DEREK HAD  
ANOTHER BEST-SELLER.



AND SOON HE HAD ANOTHER  
WIFE AS WELL.





IN A MICHIGAN HOSPITAL, MANY YEARS AGO...



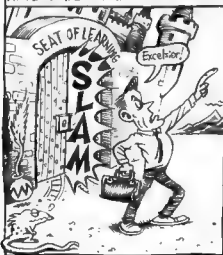
THE YOUNG MEDICAL STUDENT WAS DEEPLY AFFECTED... HE BEGAN RESEARCHING EUTHANASIA!



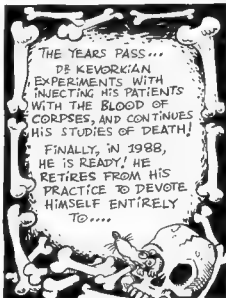
HE ALSO BEGAN ADVOCATING "ORGAN HARVESTING" FROM DEATH ROW PRISONERS - A VIEW SO "ADVANCED" IT GOT HIM THROWN OUT OF MED SCHOOL!



BUT THAT YOUNG MEDICAL STUDENT PERSISTED, AND BECAME A DOCTOR AFTER ALL - DR. JACK KEVORKIAN -



-DR. DEATH!



... THE MERCITRON!®

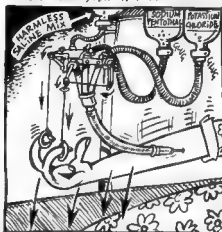


THE DOCTOR'S PROTOTYPE MACHINE FOR SELF-CONTROLLED MERCY KILLING!

FIRST THE DOCTOR INSERTS AN I.V. LINE... HARMLESS SALINE SOLUTION RUNS INTO THE PATIENT'S BLOODSTREAM...



WHEN THE PATIENT IS READY, SHE CAN PULL A STRING TO INTRODUCE A POWERFUL SEDATIVE! SOON SHE IS UNCONSCIOUS, AND HER ARM DROPS...



...PULLING THE STRING THAT DELIVERS THE LETHAL DRUG!



THE MERCITRON®: SO CLEAN, SO PAINLESS... NO KNIVES, GUNS, ROPES OR SMELLY POISONS!



YES! IF YOU'RE TERMINALLY ILL, THE MERCITRON IS THE NO-MUSS, NO-FUSS WAY TO OFF YOURSELF!

OF COURSE IT WAS TOO GOOD TO BE LEGAL, AND DR KEVORKIAN WAS BARRED FROM USING THE MERCITRON® AGAIN!



BRAVELY HE CARRIED ON HIS WORK, USING PLASTIC BAGS AND TANKS OF CARBON MONOXIDE!

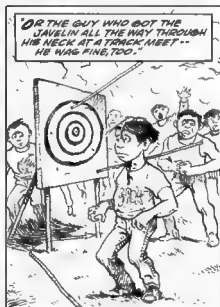
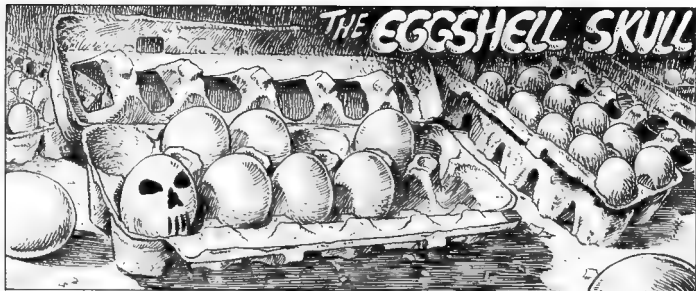


THE FIRST EIGHT PATIENTS HE "ASSISTED" WERE WOMEN, AND PEOPLE BEGAN TO WONDER ABOUT DR DEATH... WAS HE REALLY JUST A FANCY SERIAL KILLER WITH A MEDICAL DEGREE?

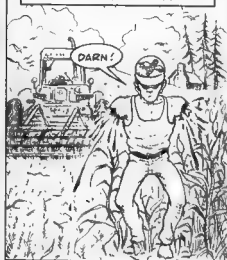


...BUT NUMBER 9 WAS A MAN, THEREBY REASSURING EVERYONE THAT DEATH IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY DESTROYER!





'OR THE MIDWESTERN KID WHO  
LOST BOTH ARMS IN SOME  
FARM MACHINERY.'



'HE WAS ALL ALONE, SO HE  
WALKED BACK TO THE  
HOUSE AND DIALED 911 BY  
HIMSELF.'



'HE REMINDED THE AMBULANCE  
GUYS TO PICK UP HIS ARMS,  
AND THEY DID, AND THE ARMS  
WERE REATTACHED, AND HE  
WAS FINE.'



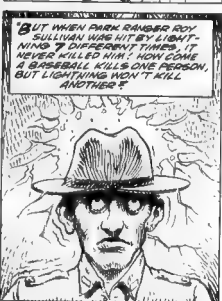
SO I DON'T KNOW IF  
IT'S REALLY THAT EASY  
TO KILL SOMEBODY.



'ALTHOUGH EVERY 60 SECONDS YOU  
HEAR ABOUT SOME KID WHO  
DIED JUST FROM BEING HIT IN  
THE CHEST WITH A BASEBALL.'



'BUT WHEN PARK RANGER ROY  
SULLIVAN WAS HIT BY LIGHT-  
NING 7 DIFFERENT TIMES, IT  
NEVER KILLED HIM! HOW COME  
A BASEBALL KILLS ONE PERSON,  
BUT LIGHTNING WON'T KILL  
ANOTHER?'



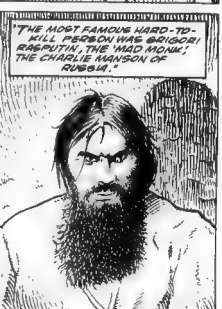
'YOU CAN DIE FROM GETTING  
HIT IN THE CHEST WITH A  
BASEBALL, BUT BLACKBEARD  
THE PIRATE WAS SHOT 5 TIMES  
IN THE CHEST AND IT DIDN'T  
KILL HIM.'



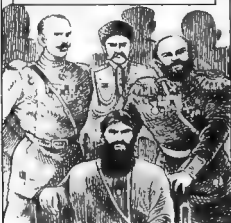
'THEY HAD TO CUT HIS HEAD OFF  
TO KILL HIM. I SWEAR THAT  
ALWAYS WORKS.'



'THE MOST FAMOUS HARD-TO-  
KILL PERSON WAS BRIGOR!  
RAGUTIN, THE 'MAD MONK';  
THE CHARLIE HANSON OF  
RUSSIA.'



AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 20TH CENTURY, RUSSIA WAS RULED BY A BUNCH OF INBRED HEMOPHILIACS. THEY COULD HAVE DIED AT ANY TIME, BUT THEY BELIEVED RASPUTIN COULD SAVE THEM WITH HIS PRAYERS.



RASPUTIN WAS A HOLY MAN WHO REALLY LIKED SEX, BUT HE WAS TOTALLY STRAIGHT. HE TURNED DOWN THE VERY FETCHING PRINCE FELIX YUSUPOV.



HELL HATH NO FURY, RIGHT? PRINCE FELIX FOUND OTHER PEOPLE WERE JEALOUS OF RASPUTIN'S POWER AT COURT AND WANTED HIM OUT OF THE WAY.



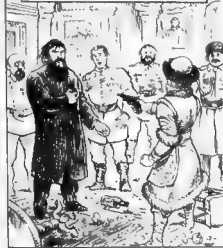
THEY INVITED RASPUTIN TO A SMALL PARTY, WHERE THEY FED HIM POISONED CAKES. HE ATE ENOUGH TO KILL TWELVE MEN, BUT HE SEEMED FINE.



NEXT, THEY GAVE RASPUTIN POISONED WINE HE DRANK GLASS AFTER GLASS.



FINALLY, PRINCE FELIX SHOT RASPUTIN. THIS JUST MADE HIM MAD.



THEY HAD TO SHOOT HIM TWICE MORE, BEAT HIM, TIE HIM UP, AND THROW HIM IN THE RIVER BEFORE THEY COULD BE CERTAIN RASPUTIN WAS DEAD.



THE BODY WAS RECOVERED THE NEXT DAY. AN AUTOPSY FOUND WATER IN THE LUNGS -- RASPUTIN DIED FROM DROWNING.



SO I DON'T KNOW WHY IT'S SO HARD TO KILL SOME PEOPLE...

...I GUESS IT'S JUST ONE OF THE MYSTERIES OF LIFE.



# CHAPTER THREE

## BIG NUMBERS

### MASS DEATH

When it comes to death, there's no safety in numbers. Disasters — both natural and manmade — wars (*page 78*) and plagues (*page 68*) all take their toll. When you hear of a large number of people dying in one incident, like the 346 passengers who were killed in a single airplane crash (*page 86*), it's easy to forget that each casualty was an individual, a singular human being, perhaps with nothing at all in common with the others except for the manner of their death. The individual personalities are lost in an undifferentiated pile of corpses. Death, it seems, brings us all together, even as it tears us apart.





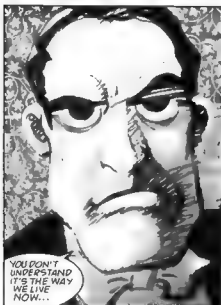


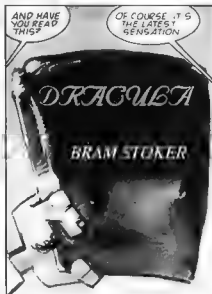


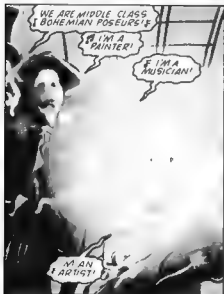
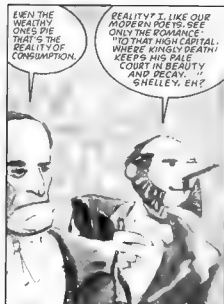


"WHITE DEATH"  
"CONSUMPTION"  
TUBERCULOSIS (TB)  
In the 19th Century, TB  
was considered a very erotic  
disease. Symptoms such as  
weakness, pale skin, and  
flushed cheeks were also  
signs of feminine beauty.  
Spread by inhaling  
bacteria in the spit of  
infected people, TB was  
nearly wiped out by  
antibiotics, but drug-  
resistant strains have  
now developed.

SYMPTOMS  
Cough, Pallor,  
Bloody Sputum









**TYPHOID FEVER**

# Sickness UNTO DEATH III Typhoid MARY

## "THE DISEASE OF FILTH" TYPHOID FEVER

Typhoid fever is spread when food or water is contaminated by a bacillus from human feces or urine. Millions have died of the disease, although improved sanitation makes it less common today. It is possible to be a carrier of typhoid fever without becoming sick; this was the case with "Typhoid Mary" Mallon (1870-1938).

**SYMPTOMS:** Fever, Insomnia, Diarrhea





# SICKNESS UNTO DEATH IV: THE FUTURE



ON MARCH 11, 1918 ALBERT MITCHELL REPORTED TO THE INFIRMARY AT CAMP FUNSTON, KANSAS HIS SYMPTOMS WERE ACHINESS, A LOW FEVER, AND A SORE THROAT.



BUT THE SOLDIER'S ILLNESS TURNED OUT TO BE NO ORDINARY FLU, FOR IT LED QUICKLY TO PNEUMONIA AND DEATH.



IN JUST 2 MONTHS IT SPREAD AROUND THE WORLD

37 MILLION PEOPLE DIED OF THIS SO-CALLED "SPANISH FLU" - THE WORST PLAGUE IN HISTORY.



NO ONE KNOWS WHY THIS VIRUS WAS SO DEADLY, OR WHY IT SUDDENLY STOPPED KILLING IN 1919.

TODAY, HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS DIE OF AIDS, CAUSED BY THE HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS.



NO ONE KNOWS HOW THE AIDS VIRUS AROSE, EITHER.

ONE THEORY IS THAT HIV CAME FROM A MONKEY VIRUS WHEN MONKEY TISSUE WAS USED TO DEVELOP A HUMAN POLIO VACCINE.



THE MONKEY VIRUS MUTATED INSIDE THE HUMAN BODY AND BECAME THE DEADLY HIV, WHICH IS NOW SPREAD BY CONTACT WITH BODILY FLUIDS.





IN THE SUMMER OF 1993, NAVAHO PEOPLE IN NEW MEXICO BEGAN TO DIE OF A MYSTERIOUS FLU-LIKE ILLNESS.



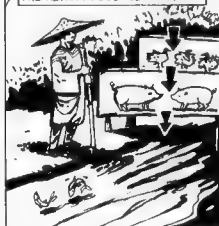
DOCTORS THINK THE DISEASE MAY HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY A RODENT VIRUS, SPREAD WHEN RODENT DROPPINGS CRUMBLED INTO DUST AND WERE INHALED BY PEOPLE.



EXTREME MUTATIONS CAN OCCUR WHEN VIRUSES ARE TRANSMITTED FROM ONE SPECIES INTO ANOTHER, AND THESE MUTATED VIRUSES MAY CAUSE VIRULENT NEW DISEASES.



IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, WHERE CHICKEN FECES ARE USED TO FEED PIGS, AND THE PIGS' FECES USED TO FEED FISH, VIRUS-SWAPPING ENDANGERS THE HUMAN FOOD SUPPLY.



OF COURSE, THE MOST EFFICIENT WAY TO INTRODUCE ANIMAL VIRUSES DIRECTLY INTO HUMANS IS BY TRANSPLANTING ORGANS. REMEMBER BABY FAY AND HER BABOON HEART?



RECENT ANIMAL-TO-HUMAN TRANSPLANTS HAVE INCLUDED BABOON LIVERS IN PITTSBURGH AND PIG LIVERS IN LOS ANGELES.



ANOTHER VIRAL CANDIDATE FOR THE NEXT PANDEMIC IS SMALLPOX. UNTIL IT WAS ERADICATED IN THE 1970'S, SMALLPOX KILLED, BLINDED OR WIDELY DISFIGURED TENS OF MILLIONS OF PEOPLE.



THE LAST TWO REMAINING SAMPLES OF SMALLPOX VIRUS ARE BEING KEPT FROZEN IN ATLANTA, GA AND IN MOSCOW.



THE WORLD IS SAFE FROM SMALLPOX - AS LONG AS THE SAMPLES NEVER THAW OUT.

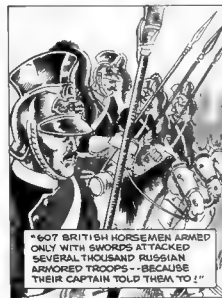
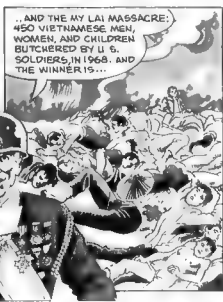
IF THEY DID, HOWEVER, THE DEATH TOLL WOULD BE ENORMOUS. BUT THE EXTERMINATION OF HUMANITY BY SMALLPOX IS UNLIKELY.

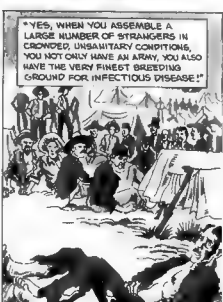
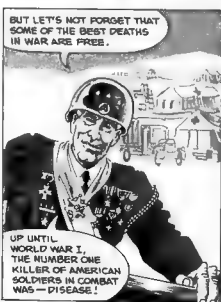
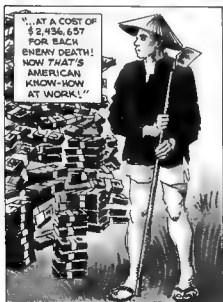
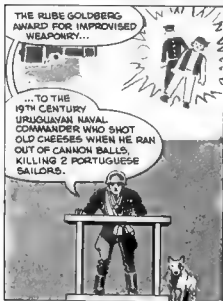


PROBABLY A MUTATED ANIMAL VIRUS WILL ULTIMATELY SIGNAL THE DEATH KNEEL FOR MANKIND.

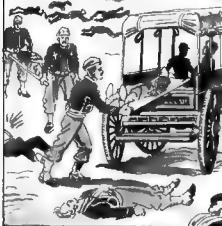








"SIXTY PERCENT OF THE MILITARY CASUALTIES IN THE CIVIL WAR WERE FROM DISEASE—THE WORST FATALITY RATE OF ANY WAR IN U.S. HISTORY."



YOU KNOW, WHEN WE THINK OF WAR, WE NATURALLY THINK OF DEFENSE.

THERE'S NEVER BEEN A WAR WHERE EITHER SIDE WAS THE AGGRESSOR—BOTH SIDES ARE ALWAYS DEFENDING THEMSELVES AGAINST SOMETHING.



YOU GET YOUR POLITICIANS AND YOUR DIPLOMATS JUSTIFYING EVERY MOVE THEY MAKE, PRETTY SOON PEOPLE FORGET THE WHOLE PURPOSE OF WAR—TO KILL!



"23,110 TROOPS KILLED, THE BLOODIEST SINGLE DAY IN THE ENTIRE CIVIL WAR—AND THE BATTLE WAS A DRAW."



\* THAT'S WHY I TAKE GREAT PLEASURE IN THIS LAST AWARD—FOR MOST USELESS BATTLE, AND THE NOMINEES ARE—ANTIETAM, SEPTEMBER 17, 1862:



"AND THE BATTLE OF VERDUN, WHERE ON FEBRUARY 21, 1916, GERMAN TROOPS ATTACKED THE FRENCH FORTRESS. AFTER 10 MONTHS OF CONSTANT SHOOTING, SHELLING, AND POISON GAS ATTACKS..."



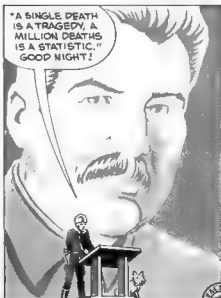
AND THE WINNER IS... VERDUN! THANK YOU ALL FOR JOINING US TONIGHT—IN THE WORDS OF THAT GREAT GENERAL, JOE STALIN...



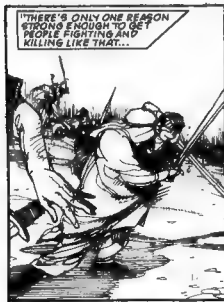
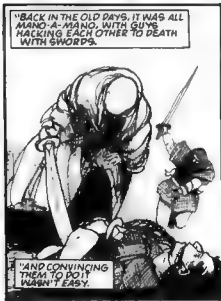
"...THERE WERE MORE THAN 1,000,000 FRENCH AND GERMAN CASUALTIES, AND THE BATTLE LINES WERE ESSENTIALLY UNCHANGED!"



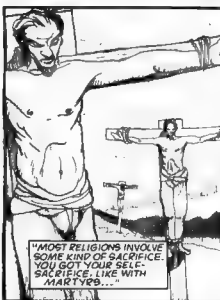
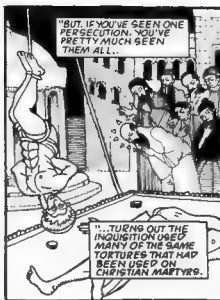
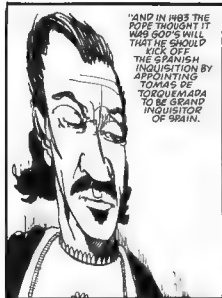
"A SINGLE DEATH IS A TRAGEDY, A MILLION DEATHS IS A STATISTIC." GOOD NIGHT!



# ONWARD (YOUR RELIGION HERE) SOLDIERS







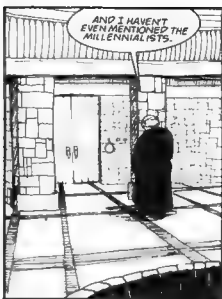




"...AND THEN YOU GOT THE INVOLUNTARY KIND OF HUMAN SACRIFICE. WHATEVER, IT'S ALL DONE FOR GOD, RIGHT?"



"ALSO THERE'S A MORE ACTIVE SELF-SACRIFICE--LIKE AT MASADA IN 73 A.D. WHEN 1,000 JEWS KILLED THEMSELVES RATHER THAN BE TAKEN BY ROMANS."

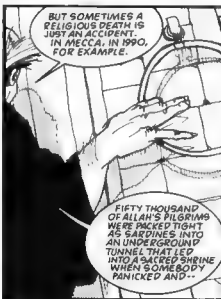


"AND I HAVEN'T EVEN MENTIONED THE MILLENNIALISTS."



"FROM THEIR READINGS OF THE BIBLE THEY DETERMINE THE DATE OF THE END OF THE WORLD."

"THEN THEY KILL THEMSELVES GO FIGURE."



"BUT SOMETIMES A RELIGIOUS DEATH IS JUST AN ACCIDENT. IN MECCA, IN 1990, FOR EXAMPLE."

"FIFTY THOUSAND OF ALLAH'S PILGRIMS WERE PACKED TIGHT AS SARDINES INTO AN UNDERGROUND TUNNEL THAT LED INTO A SACRED SHRINE WHEN SOMEBODY PANICKED AND--"



"--ANOTHER 1,426 DEAD SOULS."



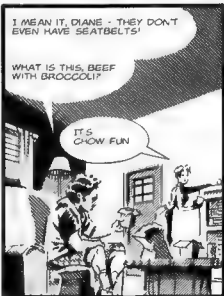
"YOU KNOW IT'S NOT THE RELIGION THAT KILLS THESE PEOPLE."



"OVER 6,000,000,000,000,000 KILLED!"



"THEY DIE FROM THINKING SOMEHOW GOD'LL LOVE 'EM BETTER DEAD THAN ALIVE!"



CAR ACCIDENTS HAPPEN EVERY DAY-ALL THE TIME-PEOPLE **DIE** IN THEM! YOU DON'T EVEN NEED TWO CARS TO HAVE AN ACCIDENT, JUST ONE CAR BY ITSELF CAN KILL YOU!



THE CAR LEFT THE ROAD-  
WHAT DOES *THAT* MEAN?



THEY NEVER SAY 'THE  
AIRPLANE LEFT THE SKY'



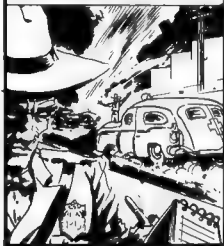
'AIRPLANES! AIRPLANES ARE THE **WORST!** ONE MINUTE YOU'RE IN THIS BIG METAL TUBE IN THE SKY AND IT'S 1974 AND YOU'RE LEAVING PARIS



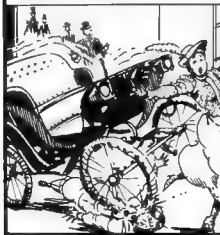
AND THE NEXT MINUTE THE  
REAR CARGO DOOR BLOWS OUT  
AND THERE'S LITTLE PIECES OF  
YOU ALL OVER THE FOREST! 346  
PEOPLE DEAD!



IT'S TRUE THERE AREN'T THAT MANY  
DEATHS IN CAR ACCIDENTS - THE  
MOST I REMEMBER WAS 11 IN ONE  
CRASH IN KENTUCKY IN THE '60S



'BUT THE VERY FIRST CAR IN  
ENGLAND, IN 1896, WAS ON EXHIBIT  
AND THIS ONE WOMAN PANICKED,  
AND THE CAR RAN OVER HER AND  
CRUSHED HER HEAD!



POK! POK! POK!  
THAT WAS THE FIRST MOTOR VEHICLE  
FATALITY EVER! AND THE FIRST  
MOTORCYCLE DEATH WAS IN ENGLAND  
TOO, IN 1899, WHEN THIS GUY JUST **FELL**  
OFF THE BIKE



'YEAH, MOTORCYCLES ARE DEADLY! I  
HEARD ABOUT THIS CYCLIST IN JAPAN,  
HE HAD A LITTLE FENDER-BENDER  
ACCIDENT, AND HIS BALLPOINT PEN  
PUNCTURED HIS GUT!





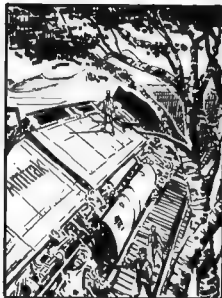
STATISTICALLY, TRAINS ARE MORE DANGEROUS THAN AIRPLANES, YOU KNOW

I KNOW!  
I KNOW!

YOU'RE THINKING OF MONDANE, FRANCE, 1917, RIGHT? THE FRENCH TROOP TRAIN THAT CRASHED AND BURNED COMING OVER THE ALPS, 543 DEAD!"

"UMMMM, NOT REALLY."

"OH, RIGHT. OKAY - THE BIG AMTRAK CRASH A COUPLE YEARS AGO WHEN THE ENGINEER WAS WATCHING THE FOOTBALL GAME ON TV WHILE HE DROVE THE TRAIN!"



"THEN THERE'S THE WEIRDEST TRAIN DISASTER EVER, THE 8017 OUT OF NAPLES AT THE END OF WORLD WAR III!"



"THE TRACKS WERE ICY AND IT GOT STUCK IN A TUNNEL, AND IT JUST SAT IN THERE BURNING COAL FOR HOURS."



"THE CABOOSE DONT GET INTO THE TUNNEL, SO ONE GUY LIVED, BUT 521 PEOPLE DIED OF CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING!"



"NO, WAIT! THE *WEIRDEST* TRAIN ACCIDENT WAS IN THE 1850S WHEN THIS HUDSON RIVER RAILROAD PASSENGER TRAIN



"...HIT A BOAT THAT WAS BLOWN ONTO THE TRACKS DURING A STORM ON THE RIVER!"



"BOATS! BOATS ARE ALWAYS HITTING THINGS - THEY HIT AN ICEBERG OR ANOTHER BOAT OR A TORPEDO OR SOMETHING, AND THEY SINK LIKE ROCKS!"



"IN 1969 NINE PEOPLE DIED ON A RIVER IN ZAMBIA WHEN THE R BOAT WAS HIT BY RAMPAGING HIPPOPOTAMUSES!"



"I'M TELLING YOU, *NOTHING'S* SAFE! RAMPAGING HIPPOPOTAMUSES! THESE HIPPOS WERE *WILDING*!"



"AND THE CAR FERRY! THE CAR FERRY FROM ENGLAND TO FRANCE! A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO, THEY FORGOT TO CLOSE THE DOORS!"

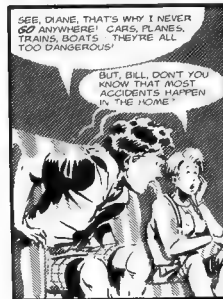


"AND I FILLED UP WITH WATER! THE BOAT LEFT THE SURFACE OF THE OCEAN! PEOPLE DROWNED!"



"SEE, DIANE, THAT'S WHY I NEVER GO ANYWHERE! CARS, PLANES, TRAINS, BOATS - THEY'RE ALL TOO DANGEROUS!"

"BUT, BILL, DON'T YOU KNOW THAT MOST ACCIDENTS HAPPEN IN THE HOME?"



"YARRRSH!"

"WHATT? WHAT IS IT?"



"I FOUND THE FORK."

"OH, BILL."



## PECULIAR PASSINGS

Did you turn to this chapter first? A lot of people will. This is the “guilty pleasures” chapter, true stories of people who have died in such *extremely* bizarre ways that you hardly need to know anything more about them than the manner of their death. Each of these deaths — the auto worker who was killed by a robot (*page 98*), the woman who died from eating pennies (*page 99*), or the many too-weird-to-be-true documented cases of spontaneous human combustion (*page 92*) — undoubtedly seemed tragic to grieving friends and family, but the rest of us can’t help but take perverse delight in these unique modes of departure. Of course, these mini-tales also provide a measure of reassurance to readers, since the odds are very, very good that neither you nor anyone you know will ever die like these people did. So go ahead — indulge the secret, greasy thrill of Weird Death. You’re soaking in it.

## WEIRD DEATH

**BIZARRE! MYSTERIOUS! TRUE!**

# SPONTANEOUS HUMAN COMBUSTION!



THE STRANGEST DEATH OF ALL  
IS SPONTANEOUS HUMAN  
COMBUSTION - SHC - WHEN A  
PERSON BURSTS INTO FLAME  
FOR NO APPARENT REASON.



SCIENTISTS REFUSE TO ADMIT  
THAT SHC EXISTS, BUT  
THERE ARE MORE THAN 200  
CASES RECORDED SINCE 1600.



SHC VICTIMS ARE FOUND WITH  
THEIR BODIES CONSUMED BY  
FIRE - BUT OFTEN THEIR HANDS  
AND FEET ARE INTACT.



TO THOROUGHLY DESTROY A  
HUMAN BODY, THE FIRE WOULD  
HAVE TO BURN AT MORE THAN  
2000° F.



YET FURNITURE SURROUNDING  
THE BODY IS USUALLY  
UNHARMED.



JUST FALLING ASLEEP WITH A  
LIT CIGARETTE WON'T DO IT.





THE TYPICAL SAC VICTIM IS AN  
OLDER PERSON LIVING  
ALONE



MISS EDITH THOMPSON, 2/14/72,  
STAFFORDSHIRE, ENGLAND

BUT SOME ARE YOUNG.



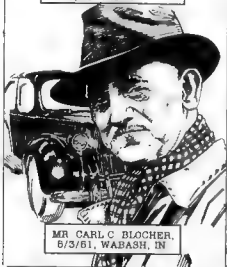
PETER SEATON, 1/3/39, LONDON,  
ENGLAND

MANY OF THE VICTIMS  
ARE WOMEN.



MRS MARTIN, 5/18/57  
WEST PHILADELPHIA, PA

BUT ALMOST AS MANY  
ARE MEN.

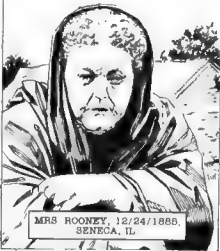


MR CARL C BLOCHER,  
6/3/61, WABASH, IN

THEY ALL BURNED!!



MOST WERE HEAVYSET.



MRS ROONEY, 12/24/1888,  
SENECA, IL

SOME WERE THIN.



MRS FRANCOISE PRICE, 2/14/78,  
HOVE, ENGLAND

MANY WERE ALCOHOLICS.



MRS. GRACE PETT, 4/9/1744,  
IPSWICH, ENGLAND.

SOME DON'T DRINK  
AT ALL.



MR JAS'K LAHIRI, LAUNA HONDA  
NURSING HOME, SAN FRANCISCO, CA

THE CASE OF MRS. MARY REESER OF ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA IS WELL-DOCUMENTED.



MRS. REESER, A WIDOW, LIVED NEAR HER SON AND HIS FAMILY. ON JULY 1, 1951, SHE SPENT THE DAY WITH THEM.



HER SON DROPPED BY HER APARTMENT AROUND 8:30 THAT NIGHT.



SHE TOLD HIM SHE WAS GOING TO TAKE TWO SLEEPING PILLS AND GO TO BED EARLY.



THE LANDLADY STOPPED IN AT ABOUT 9:00 PM.



AT 5:00 AM THE LANDLADY SMELLED SMOKE, BUT SHE WENT BACK TO SLEEP.



IN THE MORNING, SHE WENT TO MRS. REESER'S APARTMENT, BUT FOUND THE DOORKNOS TOO HOT TO TOUCH.



WHEN TWO WORKMEN RAN TO HELP OPEN THE DOOR, THEY WERE STRUCK BY A BLAST OF HOT AIR.



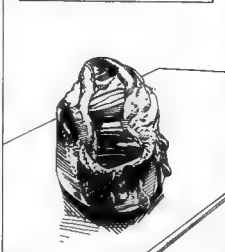
YET INSIDE THERE WAS NO FIRE--AND NO MRS. REESER.



THE HALLS WERE COVERED WITH GREASY SOOT; THE CLOCK WAS STOPPED AT 4:30 AM.



A PLASTIC TUMBLER IN THE BATHROOM HAD MELTED FROM THE HEAT.



LIGHT SWITCHES HAD MELTED TOO, BUT NOTHING WAS BURNING. MRS. REESER'S BED WAS UNTOUCHED.



THE ARMCHAIR WAS GONE, BUT THERE WERE A FEW THINGS LEFT WHERE IT USED TO BE.



MRS. REESER'S SKULL WAS SHRUNK TO THE SIZE OF A BASEBALL.



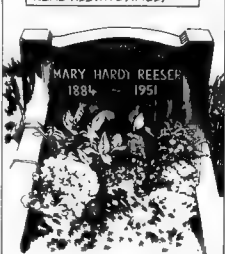
THERE WERE 10 POUNDS OF REMAINS FROM ITS POUND MRS. REESER.



SHE WAS IDENTIFIED BY HER LEFT FOOT, STILL INTACT IN ITS SLIPPER.



THE LOCAL POLICE, ARSON EXPERTS, AND THE FBI WERE ALL MYSTIFIED.



NO ONE EVER EXPLAINED THE FIRE THAT BURNED ONLY MRS. REESER.

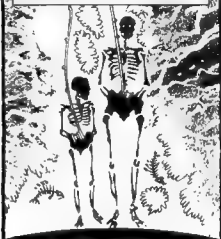




IN 1952, JOHN REID SUFFOCATED IN A VAT OF BARLEY IN THE SAN FRANCISCO BREWERY WHERE HE WORKED.



A WEST PALM BEACH WOMAN AND HER DAUGHTER WERE ELECTROCUTED WHEN LIGHTNING STRUCK A POND AND TRAVELED UP THEIR FISHING LINES.



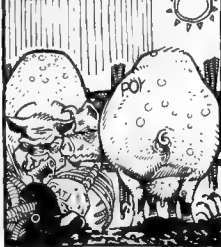
IN JAPAN, A MAN STRANGLED A WOMAN WHEN SHE REFUSED TO APOLOGIZE FOR NOT CLEANING UP AFTER SOME STRAY CATS SHE WAS FEEDING



MORINE B. CUSICK OF LONG ISLAND CITY, NY, COMMITTED SUICIDE IN 1989 BY CLIMBING THE FOUL POLE AT SHEA STADIUM AND JUMPING 120 FEET TO THE PLAYING FIELD.



87-YEAR-OLD ALSY TAYLOR OF BERKSHIRE, ENGLAND WAS REPORTEDLY EATEN BY PIGS IN 1986.



A DALLAS, TEXAS WOMAN DIED IN 1983 FROM LEAD POISONING CAUSED BY A BULLET LEFT LODGED IN HER KNEE.

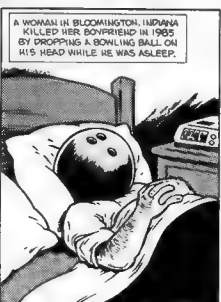
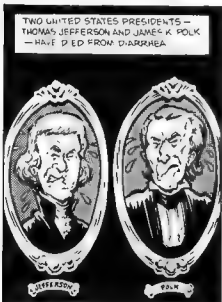
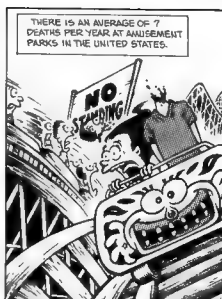
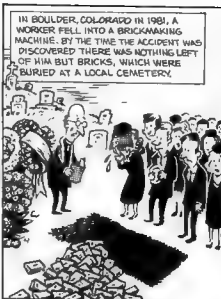
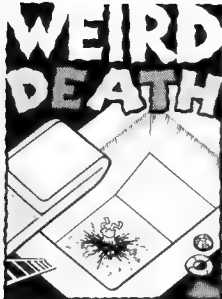


OVER THE YEARS SEVERAL PEOPLE HAVE DIED WHILE TRYING TO IMITATE THEIR FAVORITE ACTION HEROES BY USING TV OR TELEPHONE CABLES TO RAPPEL DOWN BUILDINGS.



CHRISTOPHER HOUCK WAS STRUCK AND KILLED AS HE CHASED HIS RUMAWAY COWBOY HAT IN HEAVY TRAFFIC ON TEXAS HIGHWAY 225.





# WEIRD DEATH



AFTER HIS DEATH IN 1930, LOU CHANEY'S GHOST WAS FREQUENTLY SPOTTED SITTING ON A BUS STOP BENCH AT HOLLYWOOD & VINE. THE GHOST DISAPPEARED FOR GOOD WHEN THE BENCH WAS REPLACED IN 1942.



IN 1981, KENJI URADA BECAME THE FIRST PERSON KILLED BY A ROBOT WHEN HE WAS DISASSEMBLED BY AN AUTOMATED ASSEMBLY MACHINE.



IN 1983, A CALIFORNIA MAN WAS SUFFOCATED BY HIS WATERBED WHEN IT ROLLED OVER ON HIM AS HE SLEPT.



WHEN A BOLT OF LIGHTNING HIT A FLOCK OF WILD GEESSE IN ELGIN, ILL. TOBIA IN 1932, 52 OF THE BIRDS FOUND THAT THEIR GOOSE WAS COOKED.



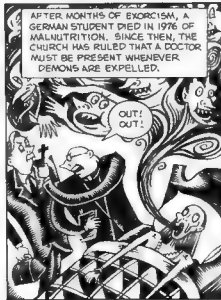
A CARPENTER IN DUSSELDORF, GERMANY WAS KILLED IN 1951 WHEN HE WAS SPEARED BY A 6-FOOT-ONG ICICLE.



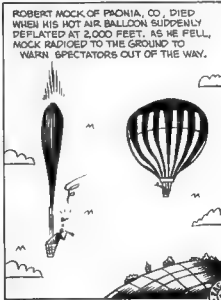
IN 1933 THE SKELETON OF A SMALL, MISSING CHILD WAS FOUND IN AN EAGLE'S NEST ON A FAZIN IN EASTERN FINLAND.



AFTER MONTHS OF EXORCISM, A GERMAN STUDENT DIED IN 1976 OF MALNUTRITION. SINCE THEN, THE CHURCH HAS RULED THAT A DOCTOR MUST BE PRESENT WHENEVER DEMONS ARE EXPELLED.



ROBERT MOCK OF PRONIA, CO. DIED WHEN HIS HOT AIR BALLOON SUDDENLY DEFLATED AT 2,000 FEET. AS HE FELL, MOCK RADIOED TO THE GROUND TO WARN SPECTATORS OUT OF THE WAY.





A MEMBER OF A SOUTH CAROLINA WEDDING PARTY WAS KILLED IN 1992 WHEN HE WAS STRUCK BY THE BRIDAL COUPLE'S GETAWAY AIRCRAFT AS HE MOONED THEM ON THE RUNWAY.



WHEN MAJOR N. BOGART, A POPULAR SHRINER AND FORMER CLOWN, DIED IN GRAND RAPIDS, MISSOURI 8 FELLOW CLOWNS SERVED AS HIS **PALLBEARERS**.



IN 1992, AN L.A. COUNTY PARKING CONTROL OFFICER WROTE A TICKET FOR AN ILLEGALLY PARKED CAR. THE COP FAILED TO NOTICE THAT THE DRIVER OF THE CAR WAS STIFF, DISCOLORED AND HAD BEEN DEAD FOR SOME TIME.



AT LEAST HE DIDN'T PULL THE DRIVER OUT OF THE CAR AND BEAT HIM

AFTER SHE DIED IN 1986, RABID BALTIMORE ORIOLES FAN **ELAINE SOLLINS** HAD HER ASHES SCATTERED AT THIRD BASE IN MEMORIAL STADIUM SO SHE WOULD ALWAYS BE WITH THE TEAM.



THE ORIOLES MOVED TO CAMDEN YARDS 3 YEARS LATER.

IN 1987, A 50-YEAR-OLD WOMAN DIED OF COPPER POISONING AFTER SHE SWALLOWED \$1.74 IN PENNIES.



THE COINS REMOVED FROM HER STOMACH DURING AUTOPSY WERE FOUND TO BE IN GOOD TO VERY GOOD CONDITION.

IN METHUEN MA A CHILD WAS ATTACKED BY A SWAN AND DROWNED IN 1938 -- THE ONLY CASE OF A KILLER SWAN ON RECORD.

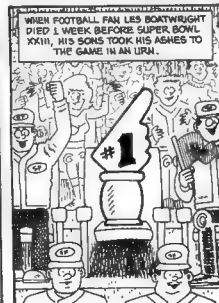
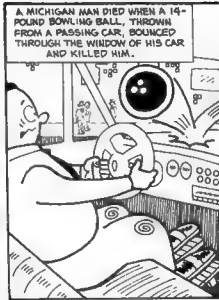
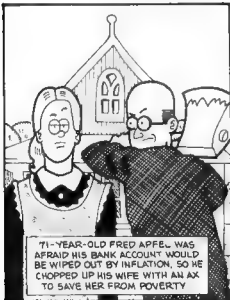
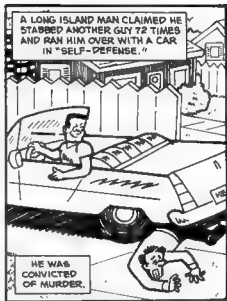
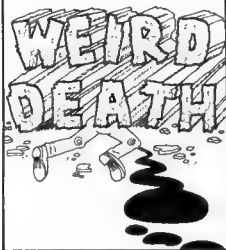


A BOLT OF LIGHTNING STRUCK A BASEBALL FIELD IN FLORIDA ON JULY 31, 1949, BURNING A TRENCH FROM FIRST TO SECOND BASE AND KILLING 3 PLAYERS.

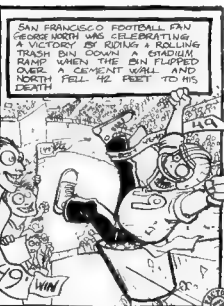
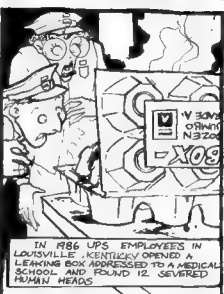


DURING WORLD WAR II, **MYRTLE**, A PET CHICKEN, WAS PARACHUTED INTO THE BATTLE ZONE. SHE DIED AT THE BATTLE OF ARNHEM IN 1944.











A WOMAN IN NORTH CAROLINA WAS CHOPPED UP BY HER SON 1 MONTH AFTER SHE PUT UP HIS \$10,000 BAIL WHEN HE WAS ARRESTED FOR KILLING HIS STEPFATHER



A MAN SPENT SEVERAL WEEKS DRIVING HIS RECENTLY DECEASED MOTHER AROUND, THEN BURIED AND EXHUMED HER AT LEAST TWICE BEFORE CALIFORNIA POLICE TOOK THE BODY AWAY.



THE 1988 GRADUATION EXERCISES AT FAIRVIEW HIGH SCHOOL IN PENNSYLVANIA WERE CANCELLED DUE TO FEARS THAT STUDENTS WOULD TRY TO KILL THEMSELVES ON STAGE.



CHARLES ROGERS REACHED TO HELP A GRAVE DIGGER WHEN THE GRAVE BEGAN CAVING IN. ROGERS FELL IN, FOLLOWED BY THE HEADSTONE, WHICH CRUSHED HIM DEAD.



IT WAS ORIGINALLY HIS BROTHER'S GRAVE.

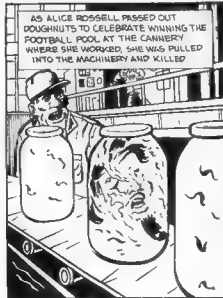
JAMES P. RIVA OF MASSACHUSETTS WAS CONVICTED IN 1980 OF SHOOTING HIS GRANDMOTHER WITH GOLD-TIPPED BULLETS AND TRYING TO DRINK HER BLOOD.



LESLIE MERRY OF LONDON, ENGLAND WAS KILLED AT THE AGE OF 56 BY A TURNIP THROWN FROM A PASSING CAR IN A DRIVE-BY PELTING

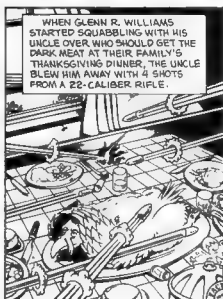


AS ALICE ROSSELL PASSED OUT DOUGHNUTS TO CELEBRATE WINNING THE FOOTBALL POOL AT THE CANNERY WHERE SHE WORKED, SHE WAS PULLED INTO THE MACHINERY AND KILLED



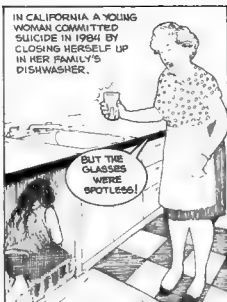
BOBBY D. WILLIS, A BARBER IN DENVER, WAS SHOT TO DEATH BY A CUSTOMER WHO DIDN'T LIKE HIS HAIRCUT.



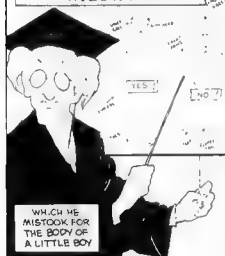




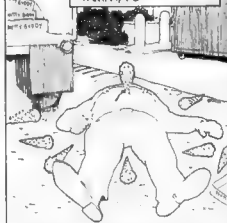
IN CALIFORNIA A YOUNG WOMAN COMMITTED SUICIDE IN 1984 BY CLOSING HERSELF UP IN HER FAMILY'S DISHWASHER.



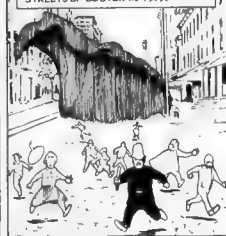
IN 1990, THE CORONER OF WAYNE COUNTY, NEW YORK EXAMINED A DEAD RABBIT...



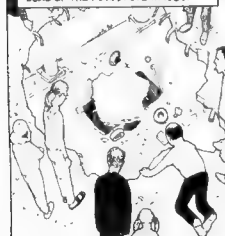
DAIRY DELIVERY DRIVER JOSEPH LAROSE WAS KILLED WHEN 500 POUNDS OF ICE CREAM TREATS FELL ON HIM IN TAMPA, FL



ELEVEN PEOPLE DROWNED IN MOLASSES WHEN A TANK BURST AND SENT 2.5 MILLION GALLONS OF STICKY BROWN GOO ROARING THROUGH THE STREETS OF BOSTON IN 1919.



BENJAMIN P. BERNSTEIN WAS DRIVING INTO MANHATTAN TO PICK UP HIS WIFE AT WORK WHEN HE WAS KILLED BY A FALLING 500-POUND SLAB OF THE FDR DRIVE IN 1989.



14-YEAR-OLD MARTINE BLUT OF PARIS WAS KILLED BY A MAN WHO FELL ON HER AS HE JUMPED FROM THE TOWER OF NOTRE DAME CATHEDRAL TO COMMIT SUICIDE.



RICHARD LEWIS OF BROOKLYN, NY, LIVED TO BE 105 YEARS OLD. HE ATTRIBUTED HIS LONG LIFE TO A DIET OF BACON GREASE, FRIED EGGS, AND 15 POUNDS OF SUGAR A MONTH.



HE ALSO SMOKED PHILLY CIGARS AND DRANK AS MUCH THUNDERBIRD WINE AS HE COULD GET.

# CHAPTER FIVE

## FINAL DISPOSITIONS

### PHYSICAL DISPOSAL

When you think of the millions of people who die every day, you realize how much work goes into the disposal of dead human bodies. Holes have to be dug (*page 116*), ovens have to be fired up (*page 121*), forms have to be filled out. Medical specialists are employed to perform autopsies (*page 108*), funeral directors are employed to embalm corpses (*page 112*), teachers are hired to train the doctors and embalmers. There are coffin factories employing hundreds of skilled craftspeople, and a coffin sales force; there are truck drivers delivering coffins, and printers producing coffin brochures. All of which goes to show you that death is not only fascinating, but it's great for the economy too!



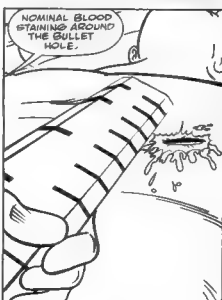
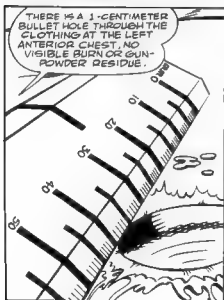
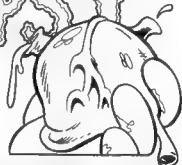
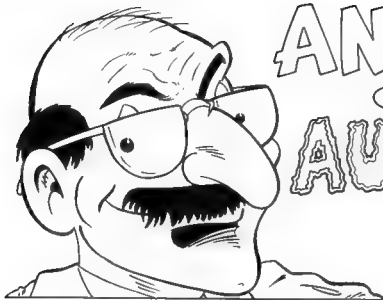
TELL ME, DOCTOR -- WHAT IS

# THE DEFINITION OF DEATH?

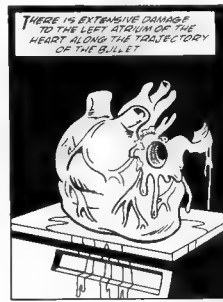
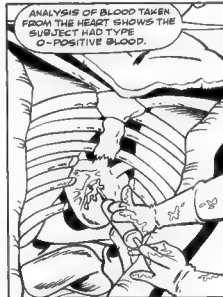
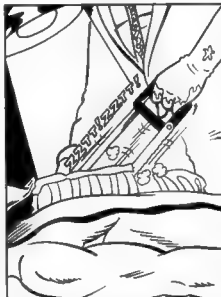
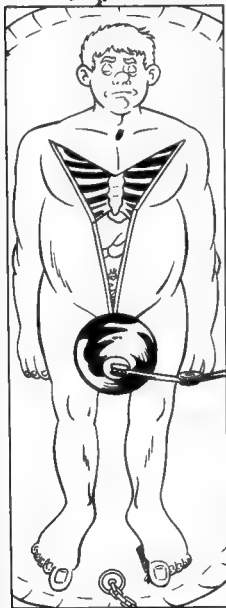




# ANATOMY OF AN AUTOPSY







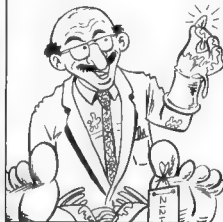
NO APPARENT DAMAGE TO  
INTERNAL STRUCTURE OF  
OTHER ORGANS.



TISSUE SAMPLES HAVE BEEN  
TAKEN FROM EACH ORGAN  
FOR MICROSCOPIC REVIEW.



A 45-CALIBER BULLET  
IS PRESENT IN THE  
THORACIC CAVITY.



LIVER, SPLEEN, ADRENALS  
AND KIDNEYS ALL APPEAR  
NORMAL. EACH ORGAN WILL  
BE WEIGHED AND SECTIONED  
FOR FURTHER ANALYSIS.



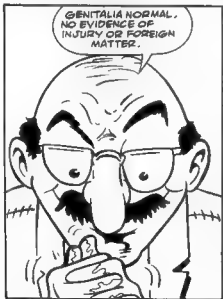
STOMACH  
CONTENTS WILL  
BE MEASURED  
AND SENT TO  
TOXICOLOGY.



CONTENTS  
STOMACH  
2121-93



GENITALIA NORMAL.  
NO EVIDENCE OF  
INJURY OR FOREIGN  
MATTER.



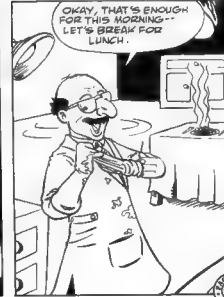
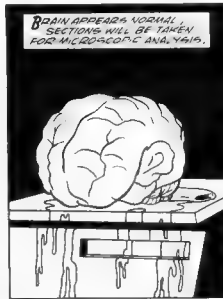
CONTENTS OF URINARY  
BLADDER BEING SENT  
TO TOXICOLOGY TO CHECK  
FOR DRUGS.

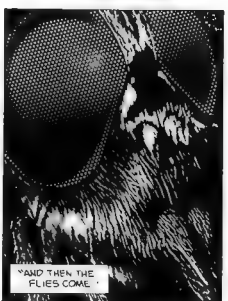
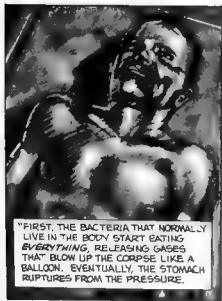


ON THE  
CASE,  
DOC!

EYES AND EYELIDS  
FREE OF PINPOINT  
HEMORRHAGING.







"THEY LAY THEIR EGGS AND THE MAGGOTS HATCH AND FEED."

AND THEN THERE'S  
THE FUNGUS

ALL RIGHT,  
PLEASE, MS. TODD—  
THAT'S ENOUGH!"

WELL, AS I SAID, YOU DON'T HAVE  
TO EMBALM HIM, BUT IF YOU PLAN  
TO VIEW THE BODY AT THE SERVICE,  
I HIGHLY RECOMMEND IT.

OH, DEAR...  
IT'S ALL SO  
TERRIBLY  
CONFUSING...

MRS. PARSONS  
AS A FUNERAL DIRECTOR, I'VE  
STUDIED ANATOMY, PHYSIOLOGY,  
CHEMISTRY, FUNERAL CUSTOMS,  
HISTORY, AND, UH, COSMETICS OF  
COURSE. I PROMISE I'LL TAKE GOOD  
CARE OF YOUR HUSBAND.

OH, I'M SURE YOU WILL... BUT I'VE  
ALWAYS AVOIDED THINKING ABOUT  
EMBALMING. IT'S SUCH  
A GRIM BUSINESS..

IT'S NOT  
AS BAD AS  
YOU THINK

FINDING  
A WAY TO  
PRESERVE BODIES  
HAS A LONG AND  
DISTINGUISHED  
HISTORY.

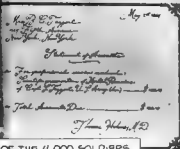
\*EVER HEAR OF THOMAS HOLMES? HE WORKED IN  
THE MANHATTAN CORONER'S OFFICE IN THE 1840'S—  
AND WAS THE FIRST AMERICAN TO DEVELOP AND USE  
EMBALMING FLUID.

\*BEFORE HOLMES, ALL AN UNDERTAKER COULD  
DO WAS TO PACK THE BODY IN ICE AND HOLD THE  
FUNERAL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

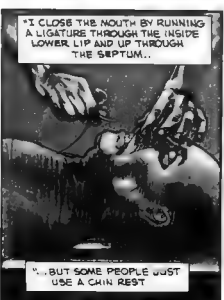
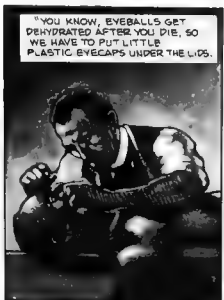
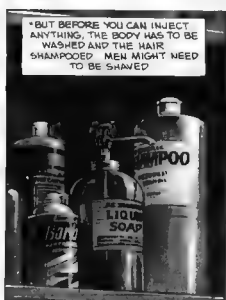
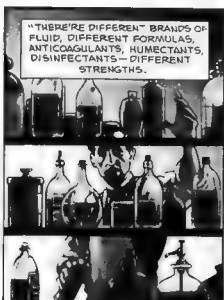
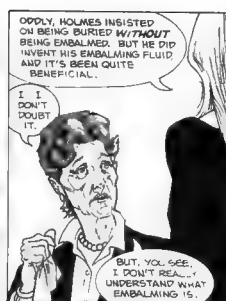
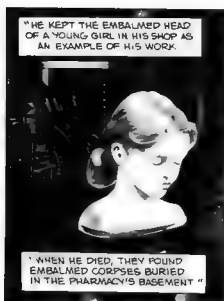
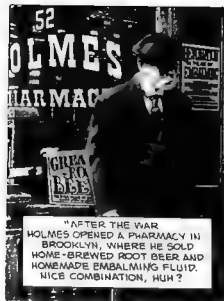
\*DURING THE CIVIL  
WAR, HOLMES WAS  
A CAPTAIN IN THE  
UNION ARMY  
MEDICAL CORPS,  
AND HE PRESERVED  
THE BODIES OF  
SOLDIERS AND  
SHIPPED THEM  
HOME.

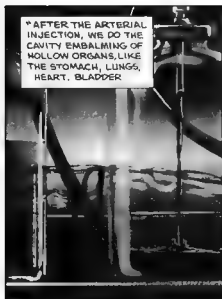
\*HIS WORK ALLOWED SOLDIERS  
TO BE BURIED NEAR THEIR  
FAMILIES, INSTEAD OF ON  
FARAWAY BATTLEFIELDS

\*OF COURSE HOLMES  
DIDN'T DO IT FOR  
FREE—HE'D SHIP  
THE BODIES HOME  
AND SEND HIS BILL  
A FEW WEEKS LATER



"BUT MOST OF THE FAMILIES OF THE 4,000 SOLDIERS  
HE EMBALMED WERE GLAD TO PAY THE \$100."





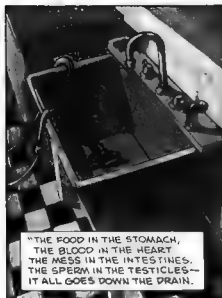
"AFTER THE ARTERIAL INJECTION, WE DO THE CAVITY EMBALMING OF HOLLOW ORGANS LIKE THE STOMACH, LUNGS, HEART, BLADDER



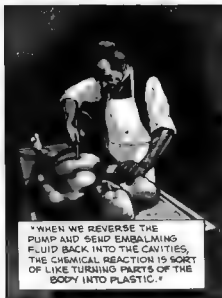
"UH DO YOU KNOW WHAT A TROCAR IS?"



"WE, UH, INSERT THE TROCAR THROUGH THE ABDOMINAL WALL TO VACUUM UP THE CONTENTS OF THE VARIOUS ORGANS



"THE FOOD IN THE STOMACH, THE BLOOD IN THE HEART THE MESS IN THE INTESTINES. THE SPERM IN THE TESTICLES-- IT ALL GOES DOWN THE DRAIN.



"WHEN WE REVERSE THE PUMP AND SEND EMBALMING FLUID BACK INTO THE CAVITIES, THE CHEMICAL REACTION IS SORT OF LIKE TURNING PARTS OF THE BODY INTO PLASTIC."



STOP!  
STOP, PLEASE!  
PLASTIC!  
MY GOD!



BUT I DIDN'T GET TO THE PART ABOUT THE COSMETICS YET.

I DON'T CARE ABOUT THE COSMETICS! I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU GO THROUGH ALL THIS JUST TO PRESERVE A BODY FOR A HUNDRED YEARS!



BUT IT'S NOT FOR A HUNDRED YEARS!

IT'S JUST SUPPOSED TO LAST LONG ENOUGH TO GET YOU THROUGH THE VIEWING AT THE FUNERAL!



WELL, I CERTAINLY DON'T INTEND TO DO BUSINESS WITH A FIRM THAT DOESN'T GIVE A LIFETIME GUARANTEE! GOOD PAY!

# SIX FEET UNDER



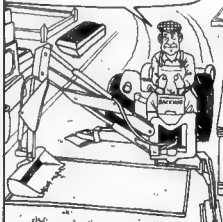
I BEEN DIGGIN' GRAVES HERE FOR WHAT? - CLOSE TO 40 YEARS NOW, I GUESS. OH, IT'S NOT WHAT IT USED TO BE. I GUESS YA MIGHT SAY IT'S A DYIN' ART.



WHEN I FIRST STARTED, WE'D SOMETIMES HAVE TO USE A JACK-HAMMER IF THERE WAS FROST OR A LOT OF ROCKS. THEN WE'D FINISH 'ER OFF WITH A SHOVEL TO GET THE NICE STRAIGHT SIDES.



TODAY WE USE A BACKHOE, MADE FOR DIGGIN' GRAVES. DON'T MATTER IF IT'S NEAT -- CASKET-LOWERN' MACHINES HIDE EVERYTHING ANYWAY. NOWADAYS IT'S JUST A HOLE, NOT A GRAVE.



THEN WE FILL 'ER BACK UP WITH A CUMPUTRUCK.

IT AIN'T GLAMOROUS, BUT IT'S POPULAR. YOU HAVE A BODY ON YER HANDS, YOU WANT TO BURY IT. THAT'S NATURAL.



LIKE THOSE 3 BOYS OUT ON LONG ISLAND A FEW YEARS BACK. THE PARENTS WERE AWAY, THE BOYS WERE DOIN' DRUGS OR SOMETHIN'. I DON'T KNOW THESE KIDZ TODAY...



WELL, ONE OF 'EM OVERDOSES SOMEHOW OR HAS AN ACCIDENT OR SOMETHING. ANYWAY, HE DIES AND WHAT DO THEY DO WITH HIM?





WHY, THEY PUT 'IM IN THE GROUND, OF COURSE! DUB A HOLE THEY CALLED A GRAVE OUT IN THE BACKYARD AND PUT 'IM IN IT!



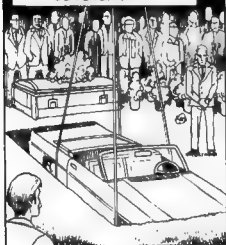
WELL, NOBODY NOTICES A THING UNTIL FINALLY, WEEKS LATER, ONE OF THE BOYS TELLS HIS MOTHER. I GUESS HE FELT BAD ABOUT IT. AND HE OUGHTTA!



PEOPLE GET FUNNY IDEAS WHEN IT COMES TO BURIALS. SOME WANT TO BE BURIED WITH SOMETHIN' THEY LOVE - A TEDDY BEAR, A WEDDING RING, A PHOTOGRAPH... A CAR.



THIS WOMAN IN INDIANA WAS BURIED IN HER '76 CADDY TOOK UP 14 PLOTS IN THE CEMETERY!



THEN THERE WAS WILLIE STOKES, IN CHICAGO. INSTEAD OF BURRYIN' HIM IN HIS CADILLAC, THEY JUST MADE HIS COFFIN LOOK LIKE ONE



AND DOWN IN TEXAS THEY BURIED THIS PRETTY YOUNG GIRL, SANDRA WEST, WEARIN' A LACE NIGHTIE IN HER FERRARI!



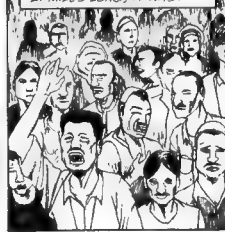
I TELL YA, I CAN UNDERSTAND A CADILLAC, BUT IMAGINE BURRYIN' A FERRARI!



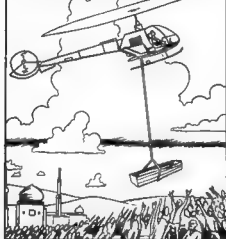
NOT THAT WE'RE DIGGIN' THAT MANY HOLES THESE DAYS TAKE THE AYATOLLAH KHOMEINI, FOR EXAMPLE



WHEN HE DIED THEY PLANNED TO BURRY HIM, SAME AS ANY- BODY ELSE THERE WAS OVER A MILLION PEOPLE IN HIS FUNERAL PROCESSION-- 21 MILES LONG, IT WAS!



SO THEY USED A HELICOPTER TO CARRY HIS COFFIN OVER THE CROWD, SET IT DOWN WHERE THE GRAVE WAS GONNA BE.



I GUESS HIS PEOPLE JUST LOVED HIM TOO MUCH. THEY WERE ALL PUSHIN' AND SHOVIN', JUST TRYIN' TO TOUCH THE BODY, AND THE COFFIN HAD NO COVER. DOWN WENT THE AYATOLLAH, INTO THE DIRT!

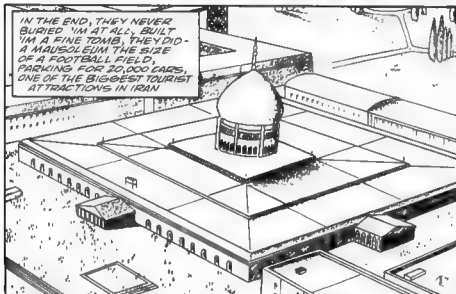


SO BACK IN THE BOX WITH 'IM, AND OFF THEY FLEW. NO BURIAL THAT DAY!

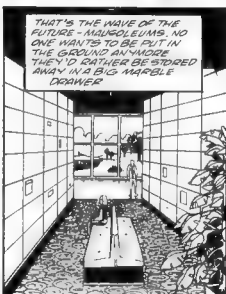


AND EVEN SO, THERE WAS 8 PEOPLE CRUSHED TO DEATH IN THE CROWD.

IN THE END, THEY NEVER BURIED 'IM AT ALL. BUILT 'IM A FINE TOMB, THEY DID - A MAUSOLEUM THE SIZE OF A FOOTBALL FIELD, PARKING FOR 20,000 CARS, ONE OF THE BIGGEST TOURIST ATTRACTIONS IN IRAN



THAT'S THE WAVE OF THE FUTURE - MAUSOLEUMS. NO ONE WANTS TO BE PUT IN THE GROUND ANYMORE. THEY'D RATHER BE STORED AWAY IN A BIG MARBLE DRAWER



WELL, IT'S TRUE THE OLD CEMETERIES ARE GETTIN' CROWDED.



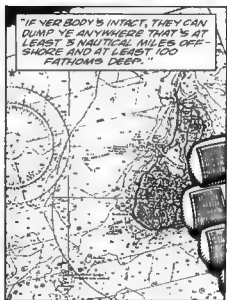
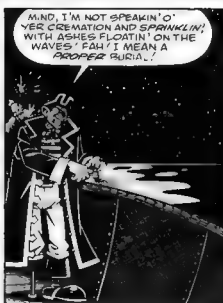
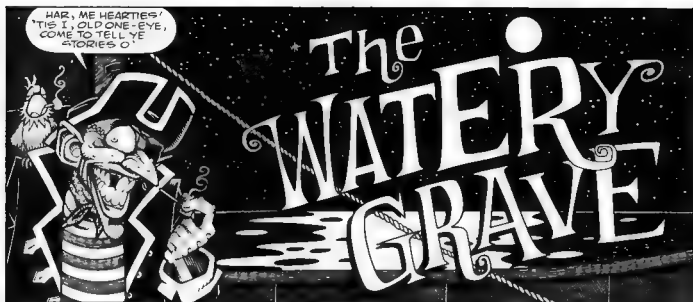
BUT I THINK IT'S MOSTLY THAT THEY WANT THEIR RESTIN' PLACES CLEAN AND SANITARY. I TELL YA, IT AIN'T NATURAL!



LIKE I SAID, GRAVE-DIGGIN'S A DYIN' ART.



--BUT, HEY, IT'S A LIVIN'!



PROVIDIN' YE FILLS OUT THE PROPER FORMS, THERE'S THE GENERAL BURIAL-AT-SEA PERMIT, THE SHIP-FINING PERMIT, THE EPA REPORT, THE BOAT-CHARTER CONTRACT...

AWWWK!



...AND IF THE NAVY'S HANDLIN' THE MATTER, IT'S EVEN WORSE! YE'LL NEED SIGNED AUTHORIZATION FROM YER KIN, AN APPROVED BURIAL PERMIT, A CERTIFIED COPY O' THE DEATH CERTIFICATE



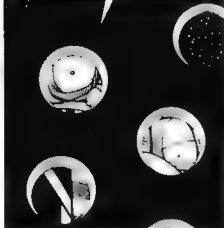
AN' THE NAVY SAYS YE NEED A REGULATION MEAL, LAMKET



THE CASSET'S GOTTA HAVE ONE HUNDRED POUNDS OF ROCKS OR SAND INSIDE FOR BALLAST, AS WELL AS YER OWN BODY



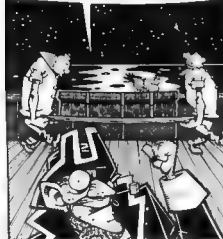
AN' JUST TO BE SURE YER DEEP-SIXED PROPER, THERE'S GOT TO BE AT LEAST TEN TWO-INCH HOLES DRILLED IN THE SIDES TO LET YER CASSET TAKE ON WATER.



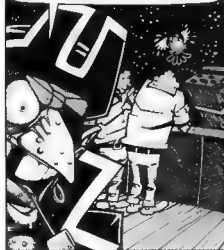
AN' ON ACCOUNT OF THEM HOLES, YE'VE GOT TO BE WRAPPED IN A SHROUD. AN' ON ACCOUNT OF IT MAY TAKE THE NAVY A WHILE TO GET TO YE, YE MUST BE EMBALMED AS WELL



AN' TO KEEP THE LID OF YER BOX FROM FLOATIN' AWAY, IT MUST BE WRAPPED ABOUT WITH METAL STRAPS. NAVY JONE'S OWN LOCKER WAS NEVER NO SECURE



AY, 'TIS STRANGE YE MIGHT CHOOSE BURIAL AT SEA AS A RETURN TO THE GREAT OCEAN, RECOMIN' ONE WITH THE FISHES AN' ALL THAT.



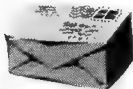
...BUT I'LL BE HORN-  
WAGGLED IF THE FISH  
HON'T NEED A CAN  
OPENER TO GET YE  
OUT!







**CIRCLE THE CORRECT ANSWER:  
AFTER YOU ARE CREMATED, YOUR ASHES MAY BE...**



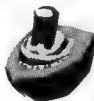
a. sent to  
your next  
of kin.



b. placed in  
a decorative  
urn.



c. scattered  
by hand.



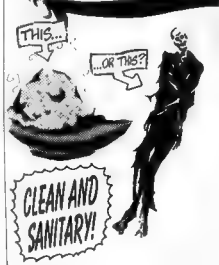
d. poured  
into the  
ocean.



e. dumped  
from an  
airplane.  
("aerial  
burial")

f. All of the above.

**CREMATION - The BEST METHOD OF CORPSE DISPOSAL!**

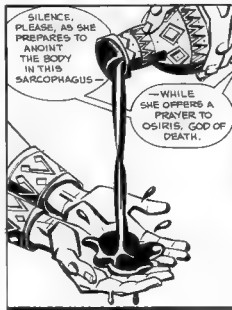


**Transportation from hospital**  
**Cremation**  
**Burial at sea**  
**TOTAL COST \$500.**

**Transportation from hospital**  
**Embalming fee**  
**Casket**  
**Flowers**  
**Chapel fee**  
**Minister's fee**  
**Organist's fee**  
**Transportation to cemetery**  
**Burial plot**  
**Opening, closing grave**  
**TOTAL COST: \$10,000**

**WHY PAY MORE?**











OF COURSE, WE HAVE NOT ACTUALLY PERFORMED A MUMMIFICATION HERE FOR YOU TODAY. IT IS A LONG AND COMPLICATED PROCESS, INTENDED TO ENSURE THE AFTERLIFE OF THE PHARAOH



HOWEVER, WITHIN THIS SARCOPHAGUS—

—LIES THE ACTUAL MUMMY OF THE BOY-KING, PHARAOH TUT-RA III. I INVITE YOU ALL TO COME FORWARD...



... AND FOR AN ADDITIONAL ONE DOLLAR, VIEW THE REMAINS OF ONE WHO WAS KING THREE-THOUSAND YEARS AGO!



STEP UP, STEP UP. GIVE EVERYONE A CHANCE... SEE THE MUMMY, DIRECT FROM CAIRO! AND DON'T FORGET, MY FRIENDS, AS YOU LEAVE TODAY, LOOK FOR THE STAND OUTSIDE WHERE YOU WILL FIND FOR SALE OUR OWN EGYPTIAN OINTMENT, A SOOTHING BALM FOR ACHES AND PAINS!



THANK YOU FOR COMING, FRIENDS, THANK YOU.



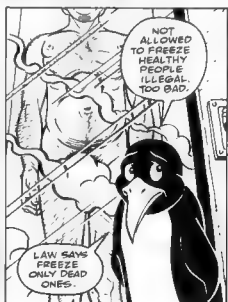
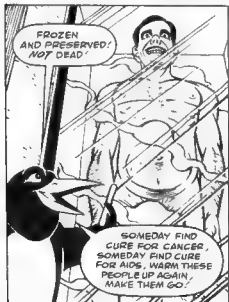
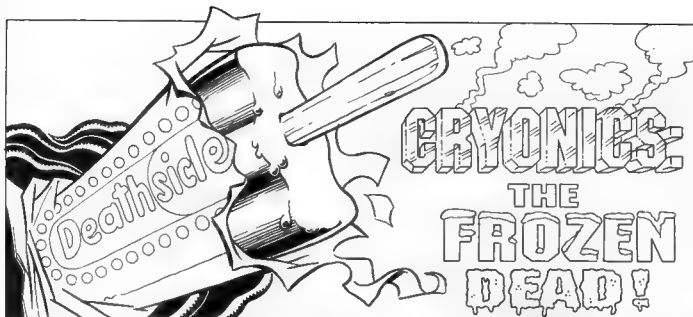
GOOD SHOW, CHOPSY. HOW'D WE DO?

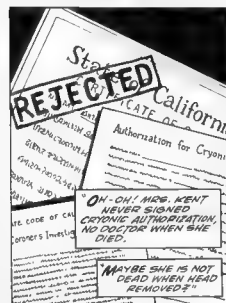
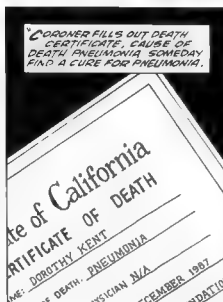
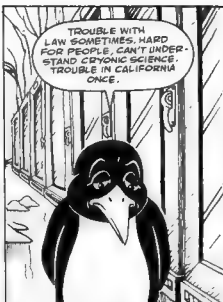
COUNTING THE GATE. FIFTY BUCKS.

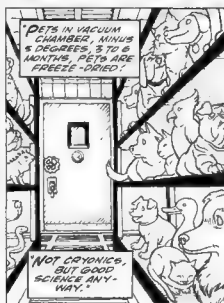
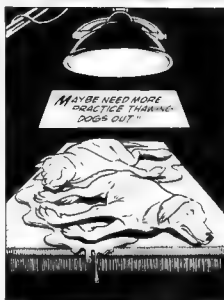
CHOPSY, DID YOU REALLY BRING THAT MUMMY ALL THE WAY FROM CAIRO?



WHY, SURE, NETTIE—ALL THE WAY FROM CAIRO, ILLINOIS!







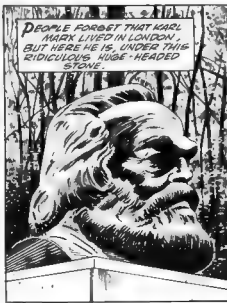
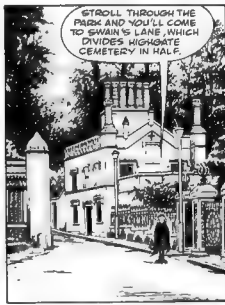
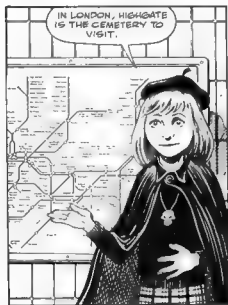
# CHAPTER SIX

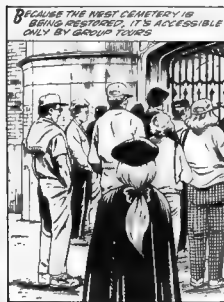
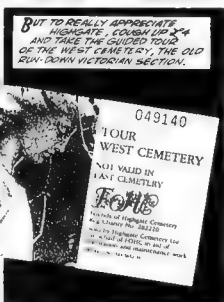
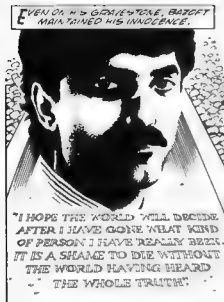
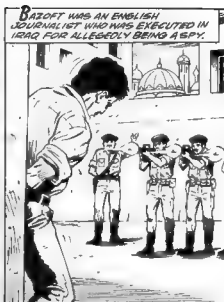
## C E M E T E R Y T O U R S

### GRAVEYARD SHIFT

There's no nicer way to while away some leisure time than a trip to the cemetery. Graveyards are quiet, green places where you can stroll around and develop a taste for the arts of stone carving and landscaping. Relax — enjoy yourself — that's what cemeteries are for. The 19th-century New England Transcendentalists who invented the garden-type cemetery wanted you to see death as just another beautiful part of Nature's Plan. So use your local cemetery — go jogging there, have a picnic, or just plant a friend! Here, thanks to our lovely host Maddy, you can tour the graveyards of faraway lands without leaving the comfort of your home! She'll show you some of the best, from Rome (*page 139*) to Paris (*page 133*) to Brooklyn (*page 147*) — and you won't even have to pack! Have fun!

# A Walking Tour of Highgate Cemetery







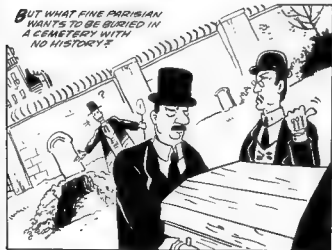




# Le Cimetière du Père Lachaise

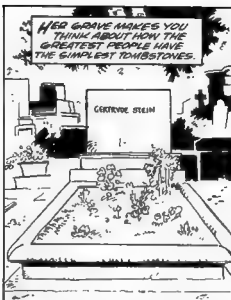


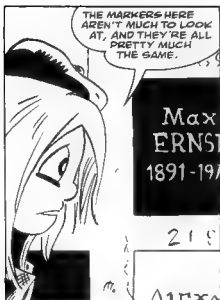
WHEN A MUDSLIDE BROKE THROUGH A BUILDING NEXT DOOR TO THE INNOCENTS, IT WAS TIME TO OPEN A NEW GRAVEYARD.

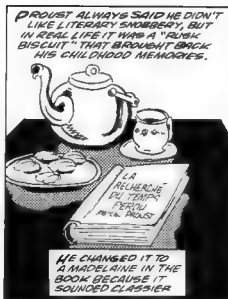


...AND VOILA!--INSTANT TRADITION!



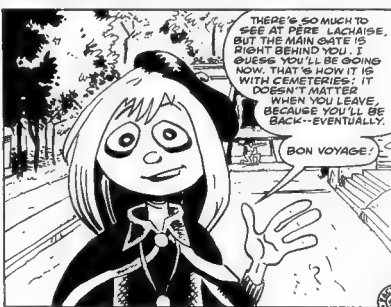


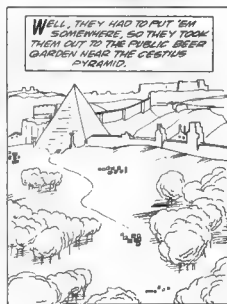
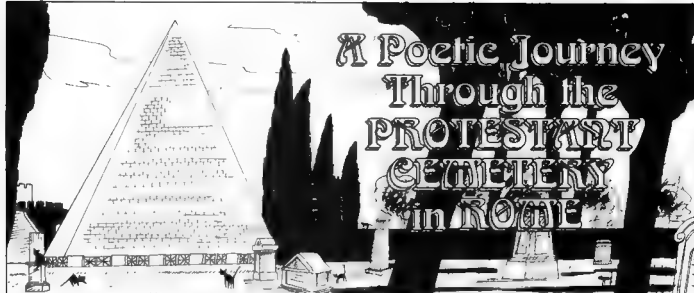






COLETTE BECAME AN AUTHOR  
WHEN HER FIRST HUSBAND  
FORCED HER TO WRITE EROTICA  
AND THEN PUBLISHED HER  
NOVELS UNDER HIS OWN NAME.





NOT ONLY THAT, BUT PROTESTANTS WERE ONLY ALLOWED TO BE BURIED AT NIGHT!



AND UNTIL 1870 THE CATHOLIC CHURCH CENSORED THE INSCRIPTIONS ON THE PROTESTANTS' TOMBSTONES.



BUT THE CHURCH FINALLY CALMED DOWN ABOUT IT, AND PROTESTANTS WENT ON BEING BURIED HERE. -- SOME OF THEM ARE PRETTY FAMOUS, TOO



HELLO, SEVERN

OH IT'S YOU.



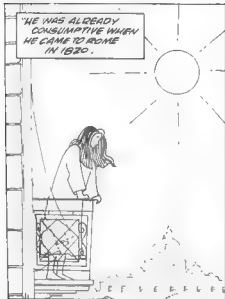
COME TO VISIT HIS GRAVE, HAVE YOU? WELL, HERE IT IS.



'POOR KEATS!'



"HE WAS ALREADY CONSUMPTIVE WHEN HE CAME TO ROME IN 1820."



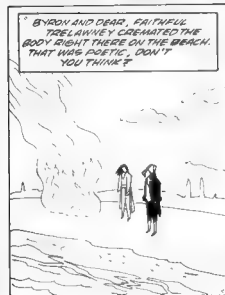
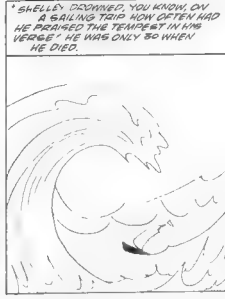
"HE WAS ONLY 26 WHEN HE DIED, YOU KNOW, AND HE WAS SO BITTER-- AND SUCH A GREAT POET-- OH, IT BREAKS MY HEART"



HE WROTE HIS OWN EPITAPH-- WOULDN'T EVEN PUT HIS NAME ON IT. IT'S JUST HEART-BREAKING, REALLY.







"WELL, THE PAPAL AUTHORITY  
WOULDN'T HAVE IT. NO MORE  
BURIALS IN THE PARTE ANTICA  
THEY SAID--WHO KNOWS WHY



"SO MARY DECIDED TO EXHUME  
WILLIAM AND BURY HIM WITH  
HIS FATHER IN THE DONNA VECCHIA,  
THE NEWER SECTION OF THE  
CEMETERY.



"THE EXHUMATION WAS A HORROR  
SHOW! THEY FOUND A 5'5-  
FOOT SKELETON IN WILLIAM'S  
GRAB--OBVIOUSLY NOT LITTLE  
WILLIAM!"



"THEY NEVER DID FIND WILLIAM,  
SO THEY BURIED SHELLEY ALONE  
AND THEN TRELAWNEY STARTED  
HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS "

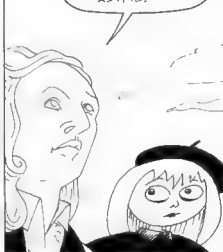


"You know, I  
think I'd like  
him better  
over there."

SO, THEY MOVED SHELLEY  
HERE, WHERE YOU FIND HIM  
NOW' AS YOU CAN SEE,  
TRELAWNEY JOINED HIM  
SOME YEARS LATER--  
FAITHFUL FRIEND,  
TRELAWNEY!



WE REALLY SHOULD BE  
GETTING BACK NOW. I'VE  
BEEN AWAY TOO LONG  
AS IT IS.



TELL ME,  
SEVERN,  
HOW OLD  
WERE YOU  
WHEN YOU  
DIED?

OH, GOD! NOT  
UNTIL I WAS 85!

I BURIED THEM  
ALL 'MY DEAREST  
KEATS, AND SHELLEY.'  
I ARRANGED THE  
FUNERALS, THE  
EXHUMATIONS'

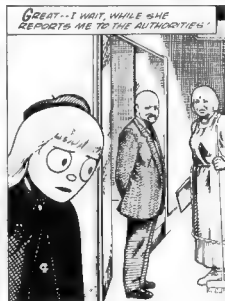
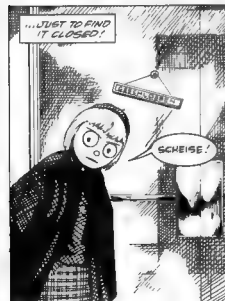
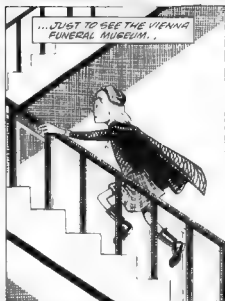
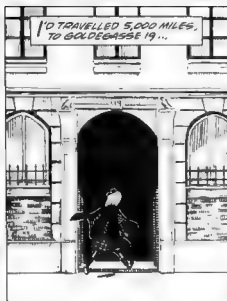
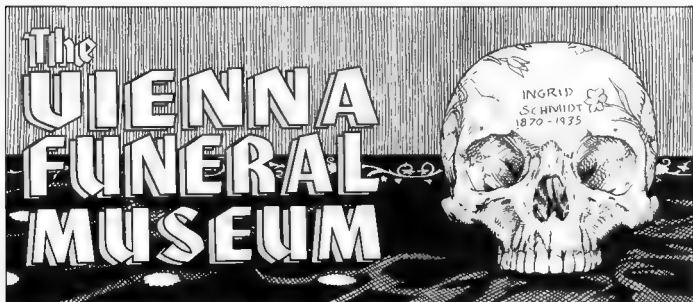


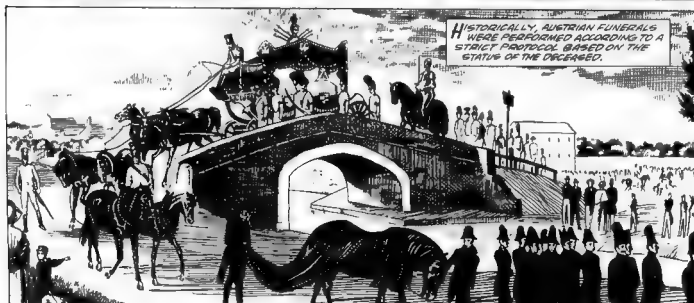
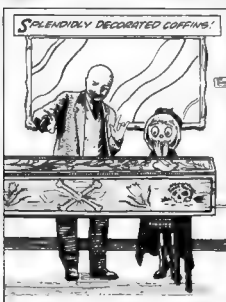
THEY DIED YOUNG, IN THEIR  
GREATNESS, BUT I ... I WENT  
ON AND ON AND ON AND ON

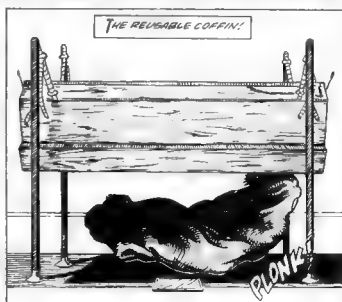
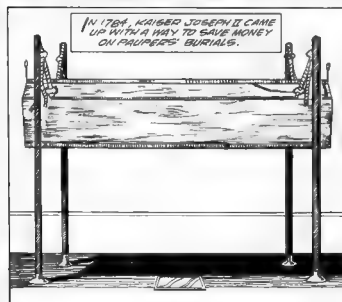
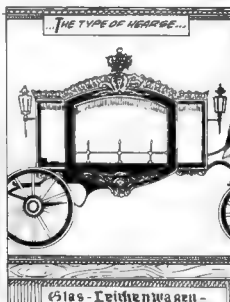
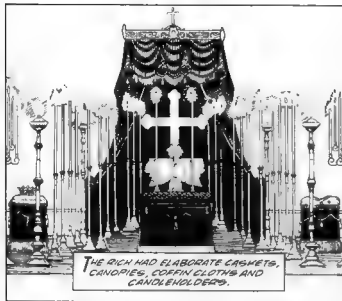


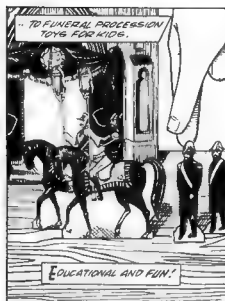
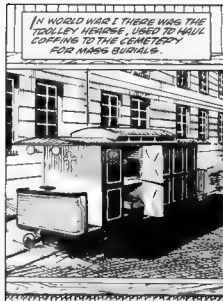
YES, SEVERN, YOU  
DO GO ON. WELL,  
YOU KNOW WHAT  
THEY SAY--ONLY  
THE GOOD DIE  
YOUNG'











Greetings  
from

# GREEN-WOOD CEMETERY

BROOKLYN, NEW YORK,  
USA!

ONE OF THE GREATEST  
CEMETERIES IN THE WORLD  
IS IN BROOKLYN, NEW YORK.  
WELCOME TO GREEN-WOOD  
CEMETERY!

IN 1838, WHEN GREEN-WOOD  
WAS OPENED, MOST PEOPLE  
WERE BURIED IN THEIR  
LOCAL CHURCHYARD.

GREEN-WOOD BECAME A TOURIST  
ATTRACTION. FOLKS WOULD FERRY  
OVER FROM MANHATTAN, BUY A MAP  
OF THE CEMETERY'S "RIGHTS," AND  
PICNIC IN THE BONE ORCHARD.

A PUBLIC CEMETERY THAT LOOKED  
LIKE A PARK WAS A VERY  
RADICAL IDEA.

THOUSANDS VISITED, BUT FEW  
STAYED PERMANENTLY.

ONE OF THE FIRST  
WAS DO-HUM-ME

THE CEMETERY OWNERS DECIDED  
TO PRIME THE PUMP WITH  
SOME STARTER CORPSES.

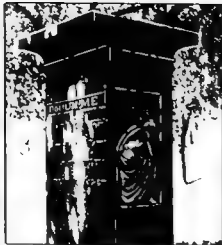
KATZ'S DELI

DO-HUM-ME MET COW-HICK-KEE  
WHEN THEY BOTH CAME TO NEW  
YORK WITH A GROUP OF SAC AND  
IOWA INDIANS TO PROTEST WHITE  
SETTLERS MOVING ONTO THEIR LANDS.

THEY MARRIED IN PATERSON, NEW JERSEY. THE LOCALS WENT CRAZY WITH DO-HUM-ME-MANIA.



THE NEWLYWEDS WERE SHOWERED WITH PRESENTS UNTIL DO-HUM-ME CAUGHT COLD AND DIED RIGHT AFTER THE WEDDING.



GREEN-WOOD'S OWNERS DONATED THE TOMBSTONE, BECAUSE THEY FIGURED A CELEBRITY LIKE DO-HUM-ME WOULD ATTRACT MORE PEOPLE TO BE BURIED THERE.

WELL, THEY WERE WRONG. PEOPLE CAME OUT TO GAWK AT THE GRAVE, BUT NOBODY STUCK AROUND. EVEN COW-HICK-KEE WENT BACK TO IOWA.



LATER, THE OWNERS MOVED GEORGE CLINTON'S BODY INTO GREEN-WOOD. THIS WAS A COUP! A DEAD GOVERNOR, AND THE MAN WHO BUILT THE ERIE CANAL! REAL CLASSY!



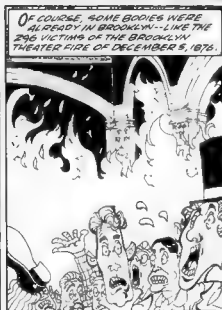
BUT THE BIG PROBLEM WAS STILL THAT GREEN-WOOD WAS 'N BROOKLYN!



CORPSES AND MOURNERS HAD TO COME OVER FROM MANHATTAN BY FERRY. AT BEST, THE TRIP WAS A MESSLE; IN BAD WEATHER IT WAS A DISASTER.



DOZENS OF CORPSES HAD SPONTANEOUS BURIALS AT SEA ON THE WAY TO GREEN-WOOD.

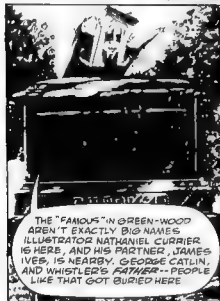
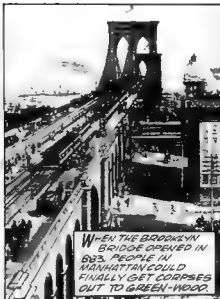
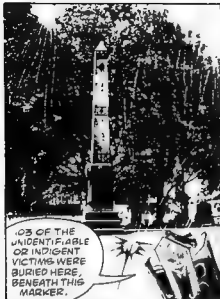


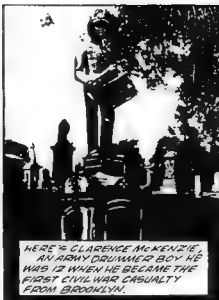
OF COURSE, SOME BODIES WERE ALREADY IN BROOKLYN--LIKE THE 296 VICTIMS OF THE BROOKLYN THEATER FIRE OF DECEMBER 5, 1876.



AT FIRST THE FIREMEN THOUGHT MOST OF THE AUDIENCE HAD ESCAPED, BUT THE NEXT MORNING THEY STARTED FINDING LOTS OF CREMATED REMAINS.







KING LOUIS I OF BATAVIA MADE  
HER COUNTESS OF LANDSFELD,  
IN APPRECIATION OF HER...  
SERVICES

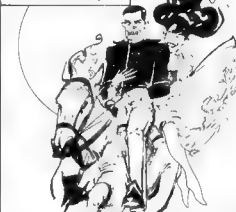


BUT THE COUNTESS WAS ACTUALLY  
AN ARMY SGT BORN IN IRELAND,  
NAMED ELIZA GILBERT



THE FAMILY MOVED TO INDIA WHEN  
ELIZA GILBERT'S DAD WAS  
STATIONED THERE.

WHEN HER DAD DIED,  
ELIZA'S MOM TRIED  
TO MARRY HER OFF  
TO SOME INDIAN;



ELIZA RAN OFF WITH A SOLDIER  
INSTEAD SHE WAS 14.



AFTER HE DITCHED  
HER, SHE MADE  
HER WAY TO SPAIN  
AND LEARNED  
TO DANCE.

LITTLE ELIZA GILBERT BECAME  
THE FABULOUS LOLA MONTEZ!



AFTER KING LOUIS' SON KICKED  
HER OUT OF BATAVIA, THINGS  
WENT DOWNHILL. SHE TRAVELLED  
A LOT, AND ENDED UP DANCING  
IN STAG SHOWS IN NEW YORK.

THE COUNTESS OF  
LANDSFELD DIED  
IN A CHEAP  
BOARDING HOUSE  
IN ASTORIA, QUEEN'S.



THIS POOR LITTLE STONE IS  
ALL THAT'S LEFT OF HER --  
BUT WHAT A LIFE SHE  
HAD!



HERE'S THE  
GRAVE OF  
ANOTHER  
SCANDALOUS  
CHARACTER --  
BOSS TWEED.

WILLIAM "BOSS" TWEED OF TAMMANY  
HALL PROBABLY STOLE MORE  
PUBLIC MONEY THAN ANY OTHER  
NEW YORK POLITICIAN EVER --



A REAL ACHIEVEMENT, CONSIDERING  
THE COMPETITION HE'S HAD.



HERE'S HORACE GREELEY, THE GUY WHO SAID, "GO WEST, YOUNG MAN!"

OBVIOUSLY, HE HIMSELF STAYED HERE



GREELEY FOUNDED THE NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE IN 1831 AND EDITED IT FOR 30 YEARS.

HE LOST FINANCIAL CONTROL OF THE PAPER JUST BEFORE HE DIED



ON HIS DEATHBED, GREELEY WAS VISITED BY TRIBUNE EDITOR WHITE-LAW REID. HIS FINAL WORDS WERE...

YOU STOLE MY PAPER, YOU SON-OF-A-BITCH!



WHAT WERE HIS LAST WORDS?

HE SAID, "I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVETH!"

M QUOTED LAST WORDS -- AN APPROPRIATE END FOR A NEWSPAPERMAN.



BEFORE WE FINISH, CHECK OUT JOHN MATTHEWS. HIS MONUMENT WON AN AWARD FOR "MORTUARY ART" IN 1870. PRETTY COOL



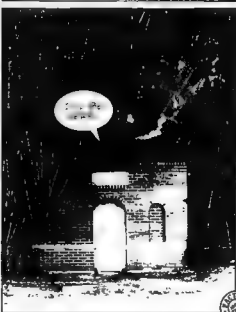
MATTHEWS WAS CALLED "THE SODA FOUNTAIN KING." SEE, HERE HE IS, LYING AMID THE SCENES OF HIS LIFE, LIKE THE ONE OVER THERE WHERE HE CONSIDERS WHETHER OR NOT TO INVENT SODA WATER, AND ON THAT SIDE IS A PORTRAIT OF HIS UGLY WIFE. THIS IS A REALLY EXCELLENT MONUMENT.



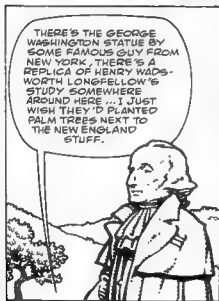
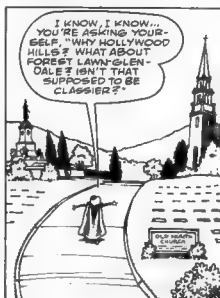
OBVIOUSLY, YOU CAN'T SEE EVERYTHING IN GREEN-WOOD IN JUST ONE TRIP, BUT YOU CAN COME BACK AND VISIT ANYTIME.

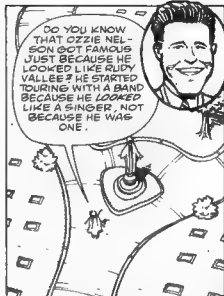


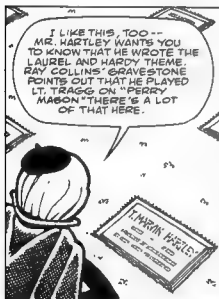
AND IF YOU DO, LOOK ME UP...

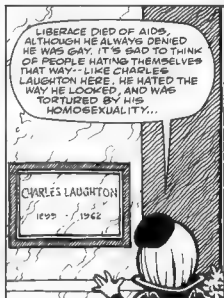
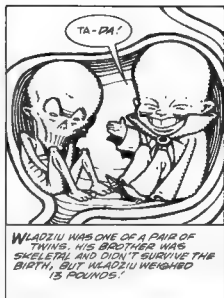
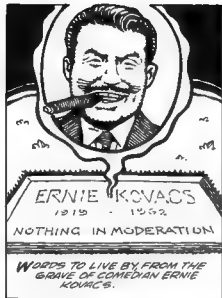


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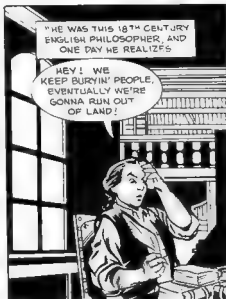


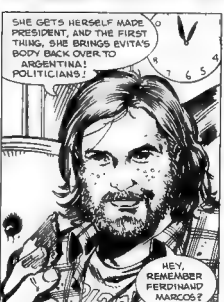
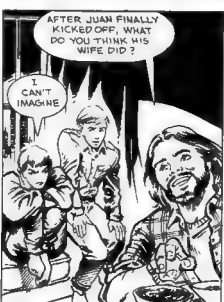
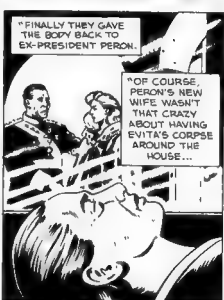
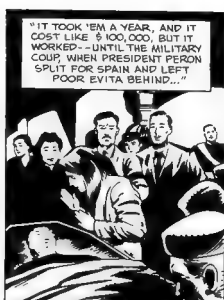
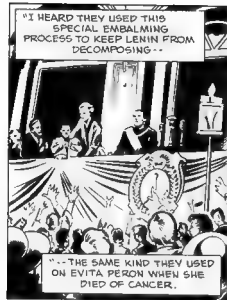
# CHAPTER SEVEN

## NO REST FOR THE WEARY

### ALTERNATIVE DISPOSAL

Are you tired of getting rid of corpses in the same old way? Does burial seem humdrum? Has the spark gone out of cremation? Here are dozens of new uses for old bodies. Obviously, you can cut them up and reuse some of the parts (*page 165*), but did you know that you can also decorate with them (*page 160*), eat them (*page 173*), or even *date* them (*page 177*)? Consider this chapter a "do-it-yourself" guide to adding a little death to your life.





\*PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES, MARRIED TO IMELDA, THAT WOMAN WITH ALL THE SHOES? HE GETS KICKED OUT, GOES INTO EXILE IN HAWAII!



\*SO THEN HE DIES AND THE NEW PRESIDENT, CORAZON AQUINO, WON'T LET THE BODY BE BURIED IN THE PHILIPPINES



\*SO MRS. MARCOS SAYS FINE, SHE'S NOT BURYING FERDINAND UNTIL... SHE CAN BURY HIM BACK HOME



\*SHE KEEPS MARCOS' BODY ON ICE FOR FOUR YEARS AND WHEELS HIM OUT FOR PARTIES EVERY YEAR ON HIS BIRTHDAY!



\*AND WHEN FERDY'S MOM DIED IN THE PHILIPPINES, THEY DECIDED NOT TO BURY HER EITHER UNTIL FERDY WAS BROUGHT BACK! THERE WERE ALL THESE DEAD MARCOS' LYING AROUND ALL OVER THE WORLD!!



GOSH, DON, THAT'S REALLY INTERESTING, BUT IT'S GETTING LATE

NO PROBLEM, MAN, I KNOW A LOT OF THESE STORIES



"LIKE THE ONE ABOUT MRS. VAN BUTCHELL --HER WILL SAID THAT HER HUSBAND COULD CONTROL HER MONEY--



"--BUT ONLY WHILE SHE REMAINED ABOVE THE GROUND"

"SHE DIED IN 1775, BUT HER HUSBAND GOT A DOCTOR TO 'PRESERVE HER'.



"--AND ALTHOUGH SHE WAS STIFF AS A BOARD, HE KEPT HER AND HER MONEY AROUND FOR YEARS."

"SEE, SOMETIMES IT'S JUST FINANCIAL. LIKE IN THE LATE 1980'S, THERE WAS THIS OLD LADY IN BROOKLYN WHO DIED, AND HER FAMILY COULDN'T AFFORD A FUNERAL.



"SO THEY PUT HER IN A STOLEN GROCERY CART AND SET HER OUT WITH THE TRASH



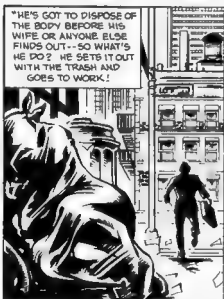
"AND THEN THERE WAS THIS GUY WHO WAS A MANAGER AT A CITY AGENCY IN NEW YORK HE HAD IT ALL. A GOOD JOB. A WIFE. AND A GIRLFRIEND.



"THEN ONE DAY THE GIRLFRIEND WAKES UP DEAD.



"HE'S GOT TO DISPOSE OF THE BODY BEFORE HIS WIFE OR ANYONE ELSE FINDS OUT-- SO WHAT'S HE DO? HE SETS IT OUT WITH THE TRASH AND GOES TO WORK!



"SOMETIMES PEOPLE JUST CAN'T ACCEPT DEATH. THERE WAS A CASE IN INDIANA A FEW YEARS BACK..."

1 I SAID, DO YOU WANT SOME ICED TEA, GRAMMA?!

SHE'S GOING DEAF, I THINK



"... AND A FEW MONTHS LATER, IN FLORIDA "

I SAID, GRAMPA, WOULD YOU LIKE SOME LEMONADE?!

GRAMPA CAN'T HEAR, NO MORE!



"OR THERE WAS THIS OTHER OLD LADY IN BROOKLYN

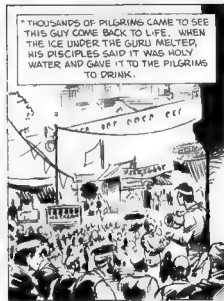
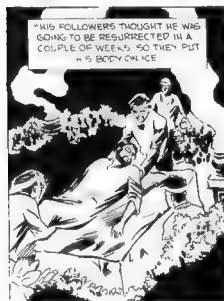
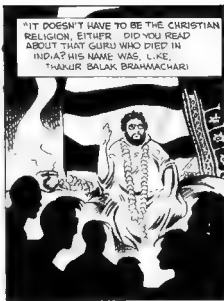
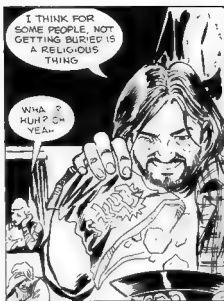
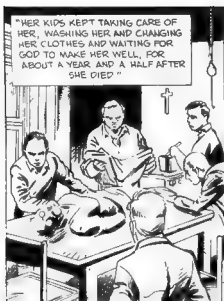
"SHE LIVED WITH HER FIVE GROWN CHILDREN--

"--AND THEN SHE GOT A BRAIN TUMOR.



"BUT SHE WAS A RELIGIOUS WOMAN, SO SHE STOPPED TAKING HER MEDICINE AND TOLD HER KIDS THAT GOD WOULD MAKE HER WELL."









THERE, THE PRE-MED JERKS YOU HATED IN COLLEGE WILL SPEND 2 YEARS CARVING YOU UP, PLAYING FRANKS WITH YOUR REMAINS, AND USING YOU TO QUALIFY FOR THEIR OVERPAID CAREERS.



WHEN THEY'RE DONE WITH YOU, THE SCHOOL CREMATATES YOUR REMAINS AND EITHER DISPOSES OF THEM OR RETURNS THEM TO YOUR FAMILY.

WHO WAS AT THE DOOR?

UH.. IT'S DAD



BUT NO MATTER WHAT YOUR WISHES WERE, IF YOUR FAMILY OBJECTS, YOUR REMAINS PROBABLY WON'T BE ACCEPTED FOR DONATION



SOME PEOPLE HAVE RELIGIOUS OBJECTIONS TO BODY DONATION.

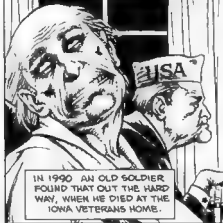
AND SOME PEOPLE THINK IT HAPPENS LIKE IN THOSE OLD BORIS KARLOFF MOVIES.

HERE'S A FRESH ONE, DOCTOR.

AH, GOOD! GOOD!



BUT EVEN IF EVERYONE APPROVES OF THE DONATION, IT'S BEST TO CHECK THAT THE PROSPECTIVE MEDICAL SCHOOL KNOWS YOU'RE ON YOUR WAY.



IN 1990 AN OLD SOLDIER FOUND THAT OUT THE HARD WAY, WHEN HE DIED AT THE IOWA VETERANS HOME.

ALTHOUGH HE'D SIGNED A DONOR CARD FOR A SPECIFIC MIDWESTERN MEDICAL SCHOOL, HE WASN'T LISTED IN THE COMPUTERIZED DATA BANK.

NO, I DON'T SEE THAT NAME HERE...

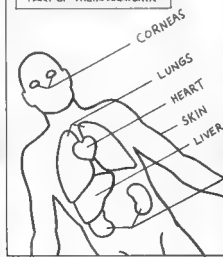


THE SCHOOL REFUSED TO TAKE HIM, FORCING THE NEWLY-DECEASED'S DAUGHTER TO SPEND HOURS ON THE PHONE FRANTICALLY SEARCHING FOR SOMEPLACE TO PUT HIM... BEFORE SETTLING FOR A THIRD-RATE MEDICAL SCHOOL..

MAYBE IF HE'D HAD BETTER TEST SCORES...



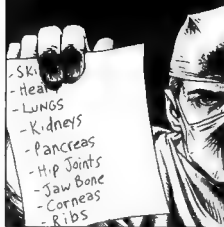
OF COURSE, SOME PEOPLE DONATE JUST A PARTICULAR PART OF THEIR ANATOMY.



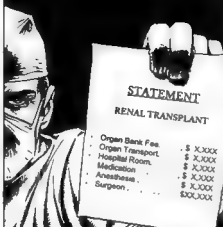
IN THAT CASE THEY CARVE YOU UP AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.



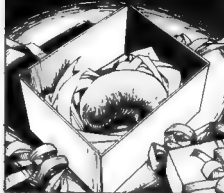
THE TRANSPLANT DOCTORS HAVE  
A PRETTY LONG WISH-LIST OF  
PARTS



EVERYBODY  
MAKES MONEY OFF  
TRANSPLANTS



EVERYONE EXCEPT YOU! YOU  
HAVE TO GIVE YOUR ORGANS  
AWAY BECAUSE IT'S ILLEGAL  
TO BUY OR SELL ORGANS  
FOR TRANSPLANT



IN 1990, A COUNTY SUPERVISOR  
IN MILWAUKEE PROPOSED TO  
OFFSET THE COST OF BURYING  
WELFARE RECIPIENTS BY  
SELLING THEIR ORGANS—WITH  
OR WITHOUT THEIR CONSENT.



IF THEY CAN'T  
HELP SOCIETY WHILE  
THEY'RE ALIVE, MAYBE  
THEY CAN HELP IT WHILE  
THEY'RE DEAD.



THE PLAN FAILED TO  
WIN APPROVAL.

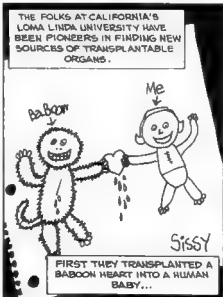
BUT THAT GUY IN MILWAUKEE  
WAS RIGHT ABOUT ONE THING—  
IT'S HARD TO FIND DONOR ORGANS.



UNLESS YOU'RE THE GOVERNOR OF  
PENNSYLVANIA, WHO JUST HAPPENED  
TO FIND A HEART AND A LIVER  
WITHIN HOURS OF BEING PLACED  
ON AN ORGAN WAITING LIST.



THE FOLKS AT CALIFORNIA'S  
LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY HAVE  
BEEN PIONEERS IN FINDING NEW  
SOURCES OF TRANSPLANTABLE  
ORGANS.



...THEN THEY BEGAN THE  
ANENCEPHALIC HARVESTING  
PROGRAM.



MOST  
HOSPITALS WON'T  
TRANSPLANT ORGANS  
UNLESS THE PATIENT  
IS BRAIN-DEAD.

BUT ANACEPHALICS ARE BORN WITHOUT BRAINS



SO LET'S COLLECT ANACEPHALIC BABIES, KEEP THEM ALIVE, AND THEN 'HARVEST' THEIR ORGANS WHEN WE NEED SOME FOR TRANSPLANTS!

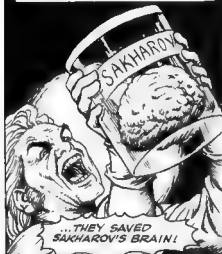


BAD PUBLICITY PUT AN END TO THE PROJECT

BRAINS WERE ONE OF THE MOST PRIZED ORGANS FOR SECRET MEDICAL RESEARCH AT THE INSTITUTE OF THE FORMER USSR ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, FOUNDED IN 1926 TO STUDY THE BRAIN OF DEAD VLADIMIR LENIN.

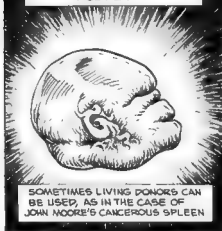


AND WHEN SCIENTIST AND HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST ANDREI SAKHAROV DIED IN 1989



...THEY SAVED SAKHAROV'S BRAIN!

BUT IF THE ORGAN IN QUESTION ISN'T VITAL FOR SURVIVAL, DONORS DON'T ALWAYS HAVE TO BE DEAD —



SOMETIMES LIVING DONORS CAN BE USED, AS IN THE CASE OF JOHN MOORE'S CANCEROUS SPLEEN

DOCTORS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA REMOVED MOORE'S SPLEEN IN 1989. AFTER THE OPERATION, MOORE RECOVERED NICELY



BUT THE DOCTORS USED THE SPECIAL SPLEEN TO CREATE INTERFERON. THE DOCTORS MADE MILLIONS OF DOLLARS



JOHN MOORE ENDED UP WITH NOTHING —



— NOT EVEN A SPLEEN

AND THAT'S WHY THEY PREFER BRAIN-DEAD DONORS — YOU'D HAVE TO BE BRAIN DEAD TO GIVE AWAY SUCH VALUABLE PROPERTY!



# the Disposal Dilemma



DEAD BODIES? SURE. I SEEN DEAD BODIES. I SEEN 207S OF 'EM. I KNEW THIS GIRL ONCE. SHE'S A DEAD BODY. NOW NAME WAS MONKA.



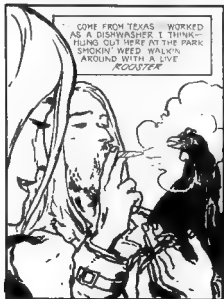
"SHE USED TO HANG AROUND DOWN HERE. SAID SHE WAS A DANCER. SAID SHE WAS FROM SWITZERLAND."



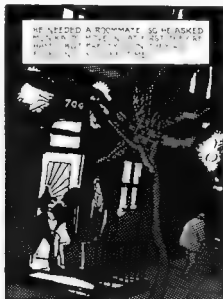
SAID SHE WAS STUDYIN' MODERN DANCE - I GUESS SHE WAS BUT SHE WAS *PROBABLY* AS A DANCER TOO IF YA KNOW WHAT I MEAN.



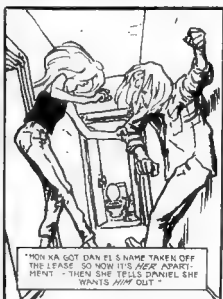
I DON'T KNOW HOW SHE MET DANIEL RAKOWITZ, BUT I USED TO SEE 'EM TOGETHER. MAY HE WAS SOMETHIN' ELSE?



COME FROM TEXAS. WORKED AS A DISHWASHER. I THINK - HUNG OUT HERE AT THE PARK. SMOKIN' WEED. WALKIN' AROUND WITH A LIVE ROOSTER.

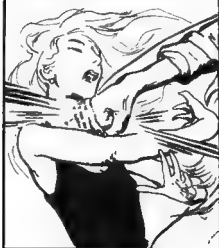


HE NEEDED A ROOMMATE. SO HE ASKED MONKA TO MOVE IN. AT FIRST SHE SAID NO. BUT THEN HE TOLD HER...



"MONKA GOT DANIEL'S NAME TAKEN OFF THE LEASE. SO NOW IT'S HER APARTMENT. - THEN SHE TELLS DANIEL SHE WANTS HIM OUT."

"IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE HIS APARTMENT,  
SHE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE HIS FRIEND



"SO HE KILLS HER  
I DUNNO, MAYBE  
IT WAS ACCIDENTAL  
BUT THEN HE'S  
GOT A REAL  
PROBLEM

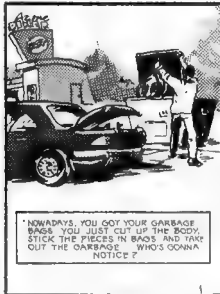
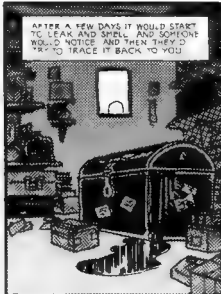


"WHARDA YA DO WITH THE  
BODY?"

"IN THE OLD DAYS, YOU JUST STUCK THE BODY  
IN A STEAMER TRUNK AND SHIPPED IT  
TO SOME MADE UP ADDRESS IN FLORIDA



"AFTER A FEW DAYS IT WOULD START  
TO LEAK AND SMELL, AND SOMEONE  
WOULD NOTICE AND THEN THEY'D  
TRY TO TRACE IT BACK TO YOU

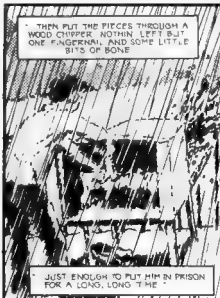


"NOWADAYS, YOU GOT YOUR GARBAGE  
BAGS, YOU JUST CUT UP THE BODY,  
STICK THE PIECES IN BAGS AND TAKE  
OUT THE GARBAGE WHO'S GOINNA  
NOTICE?"

"I KILLED HIS WIFE  
BUT NOT HIS DAUGHTER, I'M  
NOT A MONSTER



"LIKE THAT GUY WHO KILLED HIS WIFE  
IN CONNECTICUT HE JUST PIRED UP  
THE CHAINSAW



"THEN PUT THE PIECES THROUGH A  
WOOD CHIPPER, NOTHIN' LEFT BUT  
ONE FINGERHAIL AND SOME LITTLE  
BITS OF BONE

"JUST ENOUGH TO PUT HIM IN PRISON  
FOR A LONG, LONG TIME



SEE, IT JUST AIN'T  
THAT EASY TO GET RID  
OF A BODY. EVEN THE  
PROS HAVE TROUBLE,  
YOU KNOW?



HEY, A MAN WITH A LOT OF  
KNOWLEDGE HE HAD. HE OWNED  
EVERY BOOK EVER PUBLISHED ON THE  
SUBJECT - HIS LIBRARY OF DEATH  
THE PAPER CALLED IT.



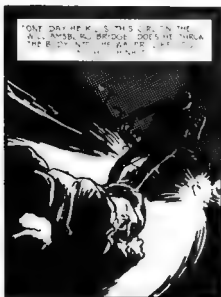
HOW DID HE GET RID OF A BODY?  
HE CUT IT UP, TOOK HIS CLOTHES OFF  
SO HE WOULDN'T GET BLOOD ON EM,  
AND CUT UP THE BODY IN A BATH...

"AND  
TH'S GUY  
WAS A  
PRO."



IT'S NOT LIKE  
YOU COULD  
BURY A BODY  
WITH ALL TH'S  
PREVENT  
RIGHT?

ANYWAY, SOMETIMES  
YOU GET THESE GENIUSES  
THEY THINK THEY'LL BURY  
THE BODY - LIKE TH'S GUY  
RAYMOND VARGAS



"DON'T DO IT. HE'S THIS GUY. IN THE  
WALL, AMB. R. BRIDGE DOES HE THRA  
THE BODY AT HE A PR. LIKE...



"NO HE LEAVES THE BODY ON THE  
CATWALK OF THE BRIDGE WHILE HE  
GOES TO GET HIS GIRLFRIEND. THEY  
BUY A DOLLAR'S WORTH OF GASOLINE."



"AND GO BACK UP ON THE BRIDGE TO  
SET THE BODY ON FIRE. OF COURSE  
THE BODY DOESN'T BURN TOO GOOD -  
IT'S MOULDY AND VARGAS GETS CAUGHT



"IT'S HARD TO BURN A BODY.  
WE'RE MOSTLY MADE OF WATER,  
RIGHT?"

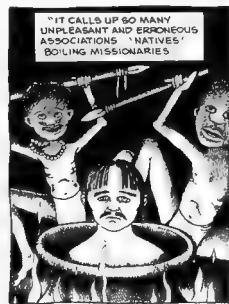
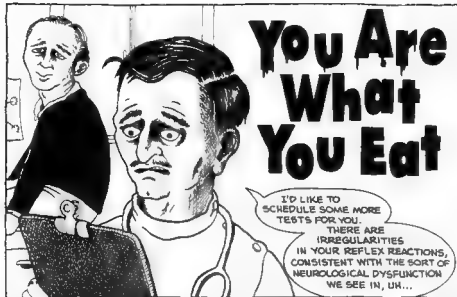
A  
CREMATORIUM  
TAKES AN HOUR  
TO BURN N' SOMEBODY  
AT 1600 DEGREES  
TO MAKE ASHES."

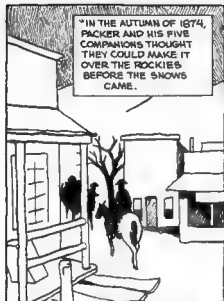


SO HOW CAN SOME GUY WITH A  
BUCK'S WORTH OF GASOLINE DO IT?  
AIN'T NO WAY HERE IN THE CITY,  
YOU JUST GOTTA SAW EM UP









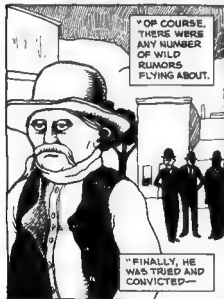
"IN THE AUTUMN OF 1874, PACKER AND HIS FIVE COMPANIONS THOUGHT THEY COULD MAKE IT OVER THE ROCKIES BEFORE THE SNOWS CAME.



"THEY WERE WRONG



"IN SPRING, ALFERD CAME BACK—THE REST WERE NEVER SEEN AGAIN.



"OF COURSE, THERE WERE ANY NUMBER OF WILD RUMORS FLYING ABOUT.

"FINALLY, HE WAS TRUED AND CONVICTED—



"... OF CANNIBALISM.

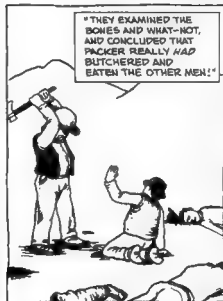
"THE JUDGE MADE THE MOST REMARKABLE STATEMENT AT PACKER'S SENTENCING."



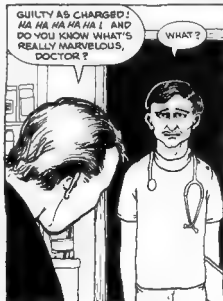
THERE WAS SEVEN DEMOCRATS IN HINDSDALE COUNTY, AND YOU'VE ATE FIVE OF THEM, GOD DAMN YOU!



JUST RECENTLY, SOME FORENSIC SCIENTISTS DUG UP THE REMAINS OF PACKER'S COMPANIONS TO FIND OUT WHAT REALLY HAPPENED.



"THEY EXAMINED THE BONES AND WHAT-NOT, AND CONCLUDED THAT PACKER REALLY HAD BUTCHERED AND EATEN THE OTHER MEN!"



GUILTY AS CHARGED! HA HA HA HA! AND DO YOU KNOW WHAT'S REALLY MARVELOUS, DOCTOR?

WHAT?

THE STUDENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO AT BOULDER NAMED THEIR DINING HALL AFTER HIM! THE ALFRED PACKER MEMORIAL — HA HA HA!



I TELL YOU, DOCTOR, PACKER WAS NOTHING! HE KILLED AND ATE THOSE MEN SIMPLY BECAUSE HE WAS HUNGRY. ONCE HE GOT OUT OF PRISON, HE NEVER DID IT AGAIN.



"AND OF COURSE, THERE WAS THE PLANE CRASH OF THE URUGUAYAN RUGBY TEAM. THE ONES WHO SURVIVED ATE THE ONES WHO DIDN'T — BUT THEY DIDN'T KILL THEM.



"ALTHOUGH MOST OF THEM WERE GOOD CATHOLICS, SO AT LEAST THEY HAD THE RIGHT IDEA ABOUT IT.

"ANTHROPOPHAGY IS A RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE!



"CENTRAL AFRICAN PEOPLE, SOUTH AMERICAN NATIVES, AUSTRALIAN TRIBES — I TELL YOU, DOCTOR, EVEN ESKIMOS — HAVE PRACTICED CANNIBALISM!



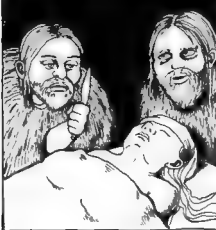
"IN MANY CULTURES MIGHTY WARRIORS HAVE EATEN THE FLESH OF THEIR FOES AS PART OF A RITUAL TO GAIN BRAVERY OR WISDOM."



OF COURSE, THAT'S "EXO-CANNIBALISM" — EATING THE FLESH OF SOMEONE OUTSIDE YOUR OWN FAMILY OR TRIBE. THERE'S ALSO "ENDO-CANNIBALISM"



"...INVOLVING ONE'S NEAREST AND DEAREST. THE ANCIENT SLAVONIC PEOPLE, FOR INSTANCE, ONLY ATE THEIR PARENTS.



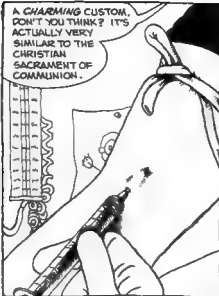
"AS A LAST WISH, DYING MEMBERS OF ORINOCO TRIBES IN VENEZUELA WOULD SELECT WHICH FAMILY MEMBERS WOULD DEVOUR THEM."



"WHenever an AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINE WAS OVERCOME WITH GRIEF AT THE LOSS OF A LOVED ONE, HE'D HAUL OUT A PIECE OF THE DEAR DEPARTED AND GNAW ON IT."



A CHARMING CUSTOM, DON'T YOU THINK? IT'S ACTUALLY VERY SIMILAR TO THE CHRISTIAN SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION.



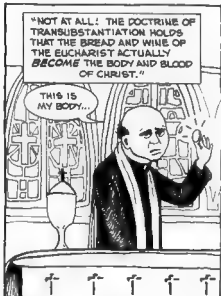
PARTAKING OF THE BLOOD AND BODY OF JESUS HELPS BELIEVERS TO FEEL CLOSER TO HIM.

BUT THAT'S JUST SYMBOLISM—IT'S ONLY BREAD AND WINE



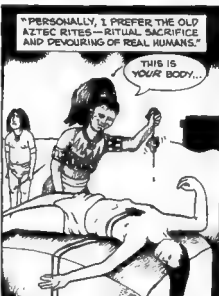
"NOT AT ALL: THE DOCTRINE OF TRANSUBSTANTIATION HOLDS THAT THE BREAD AND WINE OF THE EUCHARIST ACTUALLY BECOME THE BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST."

THIS IS MY BODY...



"PERSONALLY, I PREFER THE OLD AZTEC RITES—RITUAL SACRIFICE AND DEVOURING OF REAL HUMANS."

THIS IS YOUR BODY...



"THE SPANIARDS LED BY CORTÉS WERE SHOCKED—SHOCKED—to DISCOVER THE AZTECS CELEBRATING ABOUT 15,000 SACRIFICES A YEAR.

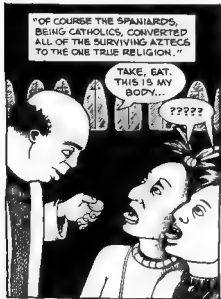
"NATURALLY, CONQUEST ENSUED.



"OF COURSE THE SPANIARDS, BEING CATHOLICS, CONVERTED ALL OF THE SURVIVING AZTECS TO THE ONE TRUE RELIGION."

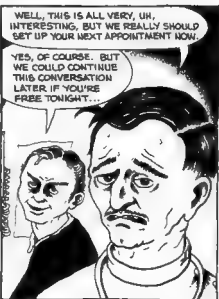
TAKE, EAT. THIS IS MY BODY...

?????



WELL, THIS IS ALL VERY, UH, INTERESTING, BUT WE REALLY SHOULD SET UP YOUR NEXT APPOINTMENT NOW.

YES, OF COURSE. BUT WE COULD CONTINUE THIS CONVERSATION LATER IF YOU'RE FREE TONIGHT...



I'D LOVE TO HAVE YOU FOR DINNER!



"Dear Diary -  
Today Steve left me,  
just as I knew he would.  
Why does this always  
happen to me? How  
many more times must  
I live through a..."



"Dead  Love"



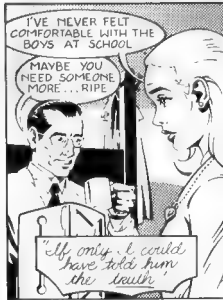
"It all started a few weeks  
after graduation, when I  
landed my first job—as  
an apprentice embalmer at  
the local funeral home."



"My boss was so nice to  
me, and I soon realized  
that it was more than  
just helping a new  
employee."



"Soon, we were having  
lunch together almost  
every day."



"Instead, I concentrated  
even harder on my work.  
Then, one fateful day..."



"Embalming Kevin was the most exciting thing I had even done in my life."



"But after two heavenly days together, Kevin and I were torn apart."



"But Karen Greenlee was like me, she was young and pretty and working as an apprentice embalmer."



"They drove into the desert together and up into the mountains - isn't that romantic?!"



"Necrophilia wasn't illegal, so Karen was tried for stealing the hearse and for interfering with a burial."



"And, like me, she had certain preferences."

"The two lovers were found the next morning."



"Karen had attempted suicide by overdose, and had left a suicide note which read:

"I was sentenced to 11 days, or jail, 2 years in prison, or a \$255-dollar fine."



"WHEN I WROTE THAT LETTER, I WAS STILL LISTENING TO SOCIETY. EVERYBODY SAID THAT NECROPHILIA WAS WRONG BUT IT MAKES SENSE FOR ME!"

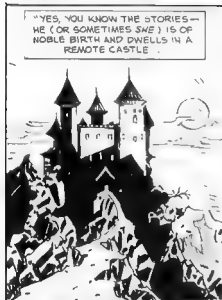
"In 1979, she escaped with a corpse from the funeral home where she worked in Sacramento."



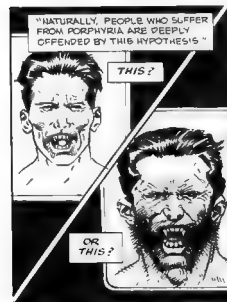
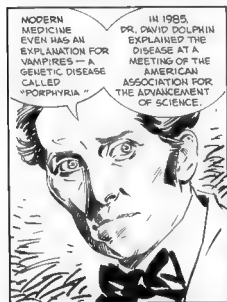
"WHY DO I DO IT? WHY? WHY? FEAR OF LOVE, RELATIONSHIPS NO ROMANCE EVER HURT LIKE THIS"

"Yes, dear Dami... it does make sense. Just for one thing - I am a love Nazi, or Kevin, or any of them, when they don't even know I'm alive."









"AFTER ALL, HOW ELSE COULD ONE EXPLAIN A SUDDEN RASH OF DEATHS, AN EPIDEMIC, IN A SMALL PRIMITIVE VILLAGE, IN THE DAYS BEFORE MODERN MEDICINE?"



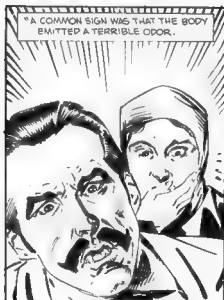
"OBVIOUSLY, THESE DEATHS WERE THE WORK OF A REVENANT, THE VENGEFUL CORPSE OF AN UNPLEASANT PERSON WHO HAD RECENTLY DIED."



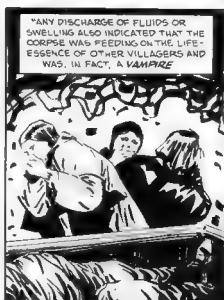
"THE SUSPECT CORPSE MUST BE DISINTERRED AND EXAMINED FOR SIGNS OF EVILDOING, EVIDENCE THAT IT WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATHS OF OTHERS!"



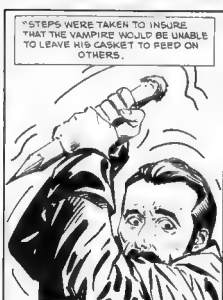
"A COMMON SIGN WAS THAT THE BODY EMITTED A TERRIBLE ODOR."



"ANY DISCHARGE OF FLUIDS OR SWELLING ALSO INDICATED THAT THE CORPSE WAS FEEDING ON THE LIFE-ESSENCE OF OTHER VILLAGERS AND WAS, IN FACT, A VAMPIRE."



"STEPS WERE TAKEN TO INSURE THAT THE VAMPIRE WOULD BE UNABLE TO LEAVE HIS CASKET TO FEED ON OTHERS."



"OF COURSE, THESE 'SIGNS' ARE JUST THE NATURAL RESULTS OF DECOMPOSITION. BUT SOME 'VAMPIRES' GAVE OTHER INDICATIONS OF THEIR EVIL NATURE."



"ANY CORPSE THAT SHOWED NO SIGNS OF DECOMPOSITION WAS OBVIOUSLY UNNATURAL AND WAS THEREFORE ALSO A VAMPIRE!"



"WHEN IT CAME TO DECOMPOSING, YOU WERE QUITE LITERALLY DAMNED IF YOU DID AND DAMNED IF YOU DIDN'T!"

"AND THAT, MY FRIENDS, IS THE TRUTH ABOUT VAMPIRES."

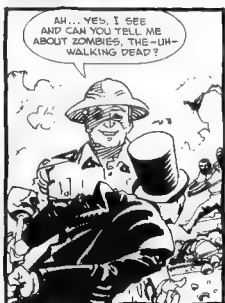
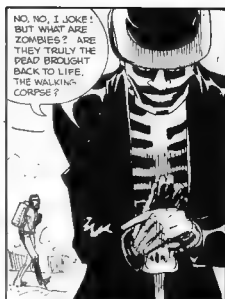


# CHAPTER EIGHT

## DEAD ISSUES

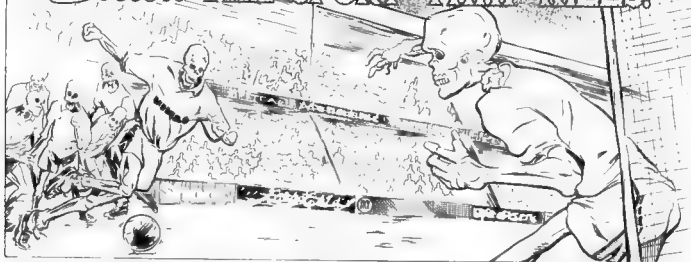
Different cultures have different views of death. Whatever is familiar to us seems correct, while unfamiliar beliefs seem outlandish and bizarre. We may find it curious that another culture believes in zombies (*page 184*), but some of our own customs are just as strange. Many people are unaware that the nursery rhymes they teach their children have macabre hidden meanings (*page 189*), or that games and sports that are perfectly safe in the U.S. commonly lead to death in other countries (*page 186*). The anthropology of death also includes various beliefs about life after death, heaven (*page 195*) and hell (*page 198*). When it comes to death, there is no absolute right or wrong opinion — at least, none that anyone living knows for sure.

## CULTURE AND CUSTOMS

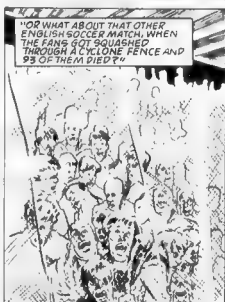
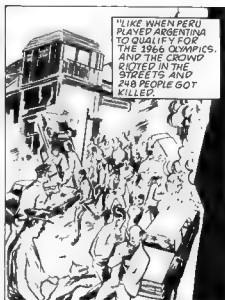




# Soccer: THE SPORT THAT KILLS!

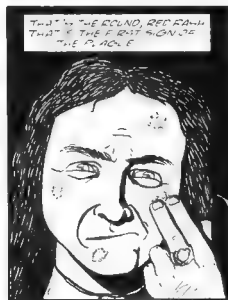








# FROM CRADLE TO GRAVE



"PEOPLE BACK THEN  
THOUGHT FLOWERS  
COULD KEEP THEM  
FROM GETTING SICK"



THEY  
WERE  
SILLY!

YES, THEY WERE AND THEN,  
WHEN THE POEM GOES  
'ASHES, ASHES,'



"... THAT MEANS THEY HAD  
"SO MANY CORPSES, THEY  
HAD TO BURN THEM."



AND THEN "THEY ALL  
FALL DOWN," AND EVERY-  
BODY'S DEAD! "YAY!"

THAT'S  
RIGHT!



TELL ME  
MORE GOOD  
NURSERY  
RHYMES!



"LONDON BRIDGE  
IS FALLING DOWN,  
FALLING DOWN,  
FALLING DOWN"



WELL, THERE'S  
ANOTHER  
GOOD ONE

LONDON BRIDGE IS  
FALLING DOWN, MY  
FAIR LADY!



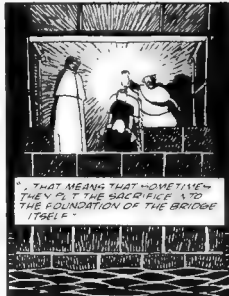
DID YOU KNOW THAT "LONDON  
BRIDGE" IS A RHYME ABOUT  
HUMAN SACRIFICE?

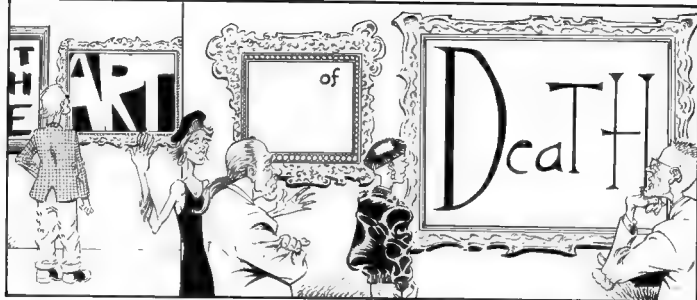
"YAY!"



"LONG AGO, PEOPLE WORSHIPPED  
WATER SPIRITS AND THOUGHT A  
BRIDGE ACROSS A RIVER WOULD  
MAKE THE SPIRITS ANGRY"







MEMORIAL PHOTOGRAPHS OF CHILDREN WERE ESPECIALLY TREASURED, OFTEN THEY WERE THE ONLY TANGIBLE EVIDENCE THAT THE CHILD HAD EVER EXISTED



SOME OF THE POSTMORTEM PHOTOS IN THE COLLECTION OF STRAUSS & BURNING, HAD BEEN PUBLISHED BY THE LATE 19TH CENTURY PRESS IN AN ELEGANT BOOK CALLED SLEEPING BEAUTY



BEFORE PHOTOGRAPHY, IMPORTANT PEOPLE WERE COMMEMORATED BY DEATH MASKS — A PLASTER CAST OF THE ACTUAL FACE OF THE FAMOUS CORPSE



OLIVER CROMWELL'S DEATH MASK

FOR THE FUNERALS OF ENGLISH ROYALTY, LIFE-LIKE EFFIGIES OF THE ENTIRE BODY WOULD BE CREATED FROM WOOD, PLASTER, LEATHER AND WAX



AT THE SAME TIME, MEMORIALS OF DEAD FRIENDS AND FAMILY WERE ALSO POPULAR. POURING RINGS SOMETIMES CONTAINED A LOCK OF THE DECEASED'S HAIR

MAKING DECORATIVE OBJECTS FROM DEAD PEOPLE'S HAIR WAS CONSIDERED A PROFITABLE CRAFT FOR YOUNG LADIES IN VICTORIAN TIMES

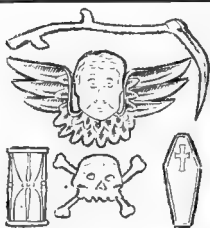


BUT BY FAR THE MOST UNIVERSAL TYPE OF COMMEMORATIVE ART IS THE MEMORIAL MONUMENT OR TOMBSTONE



ALL CONCEPTS OF DEATH HAVE CHANGED OVER THE PAST 300 YEARS. SO HAVE THE SYMBOLS OF DEATH USED ON GRAVESTONES





EARLY SYMBOLS OF DEATH INCLUDED THE HOURGLASS, THE SCYTHE, THE COFFIN, THE SKULL AND CROSSBONES, AND WHO KNOWS WHAT THE WINGED HEAD.

MODERN SYMBOLS OF DEATH ON TOMBSTONES INCLUDE DEER HEADS.



THE LAST HUNT

JOHN RICI

APP.

NOV.



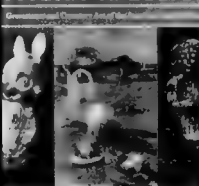
BOWLING PINS



AND  
CARTOON  
DOGS

THE 1st ALL-STAR THEATRE FOR FRANKLIN  
MURPHY - FRANKLIN'S PRODUCTIONS - LUCAS  
BROWN - AND VIRGINIA WALKER ARE IN THE  
REPTILES. BORN. SCORING IN HEAVEN.

SCORING IN HEAVEN

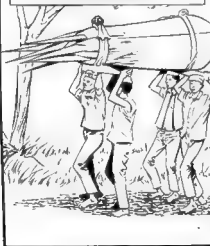


PHOTOGRAPHED BY  
LINDA BUNNEN & VIRGINIA WALKER



BUT NOWADAYS, MOST AMERICAN  
DEATH PARAPHERNALIA IS LESS  
PERSONAL AND MORE INSTITUTION  
ALIZED. THERE'S LESS ART  
INVOLVED. COMPARE A MODERN  
AMERICAN CASKET.

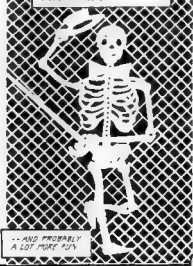
TO A MOUND CARVED ONE FROM GUANA,  
WHERE EACH CASKET REPRESENTS SOMETHING  
ABOUT THE PERSON INSIDE. & THIS CASKIN WAS  
MADE FOR AN INDIAN FARMER.



IN MEXICO, THEY CELEBRATE THE DAY OF THE  
DEAD WITH SKELETON TOYS, CANDY SKULLS  
AND PICNICS IN THE CEMETERIES.



IN OTHER CULTURES, DEATH IS  
MORE ARTISTIC.



-- AND PROBABLY  
A LOT MORE FUN.

# HEAVEN AND HEREAFTER

HULLO.  
WE'RE DEAD. ARE YOU DEAD TOO?  
YOU MUST BE DEAD OR YOU  
WOULDN'T BE HERE...  
...AND YOU MUST HAVE BEEN REALLY  
GOOD WHEN YOU WERE ALIVE,  
'CAUSE YOU'RE IN HEAVEN NOW.  
DID YOU KNOW THIS  
WAS HEAVEN?  
WELL IT IS.../  
HONEST.



WELL,  
IT'S  
CARTOON  
HEAVEN  
ANYWAY.



ARE YOU A CARTOON?  
YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE A  
CARTOON.  
THIS IS CARTOON HEAVEN.  
DID YOU KNOW THAT  
EVERYBODY HAS THEIR  
OWN KIND OF HEAVEN?  
THEY DO.



WELL...  
EXCEPT  
BUDDHISTS  
DON'T.



WHEN BUDDHISTS DIE,  
THEY JUST SEE LIGHT.

FIRST  
WHITE  
MOON-  
LIGHT...

THEN  
RED  
SUN-  
LIGHT...

AND  
THEN  
DARK-  
NESS

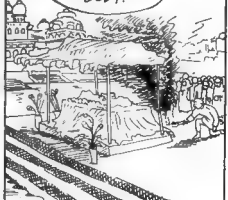
FINALLY THEY GET TO  
SEE THE DAWN.  
THEY CALL THAT THE  
'CLEAR LIGHT OF DEATH.'  
THEN AFTER 49 DAYS  
THEY GET REBORN IN  
A NEW BODY...



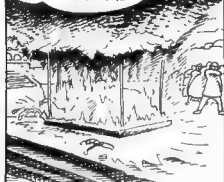
...SO THEY NEVER GET TO  
GO TO HEAVEN AT ALL.  
DO YOU THINK IT  
WOULD BE FUN TO  
HAVE A NEW BODY?  
HINDUS GET TO HAVE  
NEW BODIES TOO.



WHEN A HINDU DIES,  
THE OLD BODY GETS  
CREMATED IN A  
SPECIAL RITUAL,  
AND THEN THEY  
GET A NEW  
BODY.



EXCEPT SOMETIMES THEY GET TO BE ONE WITH THE UNIVERSAL SOUL CALLED **BRAHMAN**... AND THEN THEY GET LIBERATED AND THEY DON'T GET BORN ANYMORE.



SO BUDDHISTS SEE LIGHT AND THEN THEY GET A NEW BODY, AND HINDUS GET NEW BODIES UNLESS THEY SEE THE LIGHT.

BUT ALL I GOT WAS HEAVEN.



HEAVEN IS PRETTY MUCH CHRISTIAN, EXCEPT FOR ISLAMIC PARADISE AND JEWISH SHE'OL.

I DON'T KNOW IF SHE'OL IS EXACTLY HEAVEN, BUT IT'S KINDA CLOSE...



SEE?

IT'S RIGHT OVER THERE,



IT'S THE JEWISH NETHERWORLD, WHERE EVERYBODY WAITS FOR THE MESSIAH TO COME AND THEN THEY'LL ALL GET RESURRECTED.



SO INSTEAD OF GETTING NEW BODIES, THEY GET THEIR OLD BODIES BACK. WOULD YOU RATHER HAVE A NEW BODY OR AN OLD BODY? I'D WANT A NEW BODY IF IT WERE BETTER, BUT I LIKE MY OLD ONE FINE.



I THINK SHE'OL MUST BE KIND OF LIKE LIMBO. LIMBO'S OVER THERE—IT'S A CATHOLIC PLACE, BUT MOSTLY NON-CATHOLICS GO THERE.



LIMBO'S GOT MOSTLY UNBAPTIZED BABIES AND PEOPLE WHO DIED BEFORE JESUS WAS BORN. EVERYBODY JUST SORT OF FLOATS AROUND, WAITING.



PURGATORY'S RIGHT NEXT DOOR TO LIMBO, BECAUSE IT'S CATHOLIC TOO. IT'S LIKE JAIL FOR THE SOULS OF SINNERS.





SOULS GO TO PURGATORY IF THEY'RE TOO BAD FOR HEAVEN AND TOO GOOD FOR HELL. THEY STAY THERE UNTIL THEY'VE SUFFERED ENOUGH TO BE PURGED OF THEIR SINS, AND THEN THEY GO TO HEAVEN.



THAT'S CATHOLIC HEAVEN OVER THERE.  
IN CATHOLIC HEAVEN YOU'RE ONE WITH GOD AND YOU DON'T NEED ANYTHING ELSE TO BE HAPPY... SO THAT'S ALL THERE IS.



PROTESTANTS DON'T HAVE LIMBO OR PURGATORY, BUT THEY HAVE ALL KINDS OF HEAVENS. THEY HAVE ONES WHERE PEOPLE ARE JUST WAITING FOR BODILY RESURRECTION...



...AND ONES WHERE THEY HAVE AN AFTERLIFE WITH GOD, AND ONES THAT WILL BE MOVING TO EARTH AFTER THE APOCALYPSE. BUT THE NICEST HEAVEN IS...



...ISLAMIC HEAVEN! WHEN GOOD MUSLIMS DIE, THEY GO TO A BEAUTIFUL GARDEN AND WEAR SILK ROBES AND EAT DELICIOUS FOOD AND HAVE EVERYTHING THEY EVER WANTED, AND THEY'RE IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD FOREVER.



DOESN'T THAT SOUND NICE? AND THEN THERE'S CARTOON HEAVEN, WHERE IT LOOKS LIKE THIS AND EVERYONE CARRIES HARPS. IT'S KINDA SILLY.



I THINK WHEN YOU DIE WHAT HAPPENS TO YOU IS WHATEVER YOU THOUGHT WOULD HAPPEN TO YOU, AND THAT'S WHY THERE'S DIFFERENT KINDS OF HEAVEN.



MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE BEEN A MUSLIM INSTEAD OF A CARTOON!



# DANTE GOES TO HELL

MIDWAY IN LIFE,  
I REALIZED I'D STRAYED/  
FROM THE STRAIGHT-AND-NARROW  
INTO A GLADY WOOD./  
I WAS ALONE, AND I WAS SORE  
DISMAYED...

REMEMBER THOSE CLASSIC  
OPENING LINES FROM MY  
"INFERNO"? BRINGS BACK  
MEMORIES, DOESN'T IT?

SEE, I LOVE  
VISITING THE OLD  
NEIGHBORHOOD!

SEE, HERE'S THE ENTRANCE, YOU  
CAN'T MISS IT. COMES COMPLETE  
WITH THAT FAMOUS INSCRIPTION:  
"ABANDON HOPE, ALL YE  
WHO ENTER HERE."

AND  
JUST BEYOND IT  
IS AVERNUS CAVERN—  
THE ENTRANCE TO HELL!

YOU KNOW,  
IT WAS THE  
ROMAN POET VIRGIL  
WHO FIRST MAPPED  
THIS PLACE OUT, IN HIS  
EPIC, *THE AENEID*.

HERE'S HOW IT LOOKED  
THEN. OF COURSE, THAT  
WAS A LONG TIME AGO;  
A LOT HAS CHANGED.

THE UNDERGROUND RIVERS  
ARE STILL HERE, THOUGH—  
ACHERON, LETHE, THE STYX.  
AND YOU STILL HAVE TO CROSS  
WITH CHARON THE BOATMAN.



CHARON TAKES ALL THE DEAD SOULS ACROSS... ALWAYS HAS, ALWAYS WILL... HE'S BEEN HERE AT LEAST SINCE CLASSICAL GREECE, WHEN THIS PLACE WAS CALLED HADES



BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW FAR BACK YOU GO, HELL HAS ALWAYS HAD A BOATMAN AND A RIVER, A MOUNTAIN, SOME GATES AND GUARDIANS...

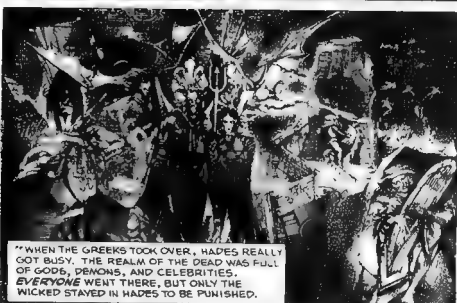


"GILGAMESH, A MESOPOTAMIAN EPIC FROM 4,000 YEARS AGO, DESCRIBES THE UNDERWORLD THAT WAY... EVERYONE WHO DIED WENT TO THE SAME PLACE...

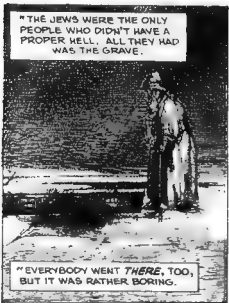
"... AND IT WASN'T VERY NICE!"



"3,000 YEARS AGO, IN EGYPT, ONLY THE NOBILITY GOT TO HAVE AN AFTERLIFE. THEY WERE FERRIED ACROSS THE RIVER OF THE SKY TO GET THERE.



"WHEN THE GREEKS TOOK OVER, HADES REALLY GOT BUSY. THE REALM OF THE DEAD WAS FULL OF GODS, DEMONS, AND CELEBRITIES. EVERYONE WENT THERE, BUT ONLY THE WICKED STAYED IN HADES TO BE PUNISHED.



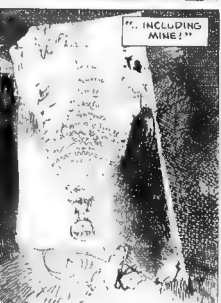
"THE JEWS WERE THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO DIDN'T HAVE A PROPER HELL. ALL THEY HAD WAS THE GRAVE.

"EVERYBODY WENT THERE, TOO, BUT IT WAS RATHER BORING.



"VIRGIL PLOTTED HIS LAND OF THE DEAD BASED ON THE GREEKS' DESCRIPTIONS.

"HE HAD A BIG INFLUENCE ON THE CHRISTIAN VERSION OF HELL...



"... INCLUDING MINE!"



"I'LL NEVER FORGET THE FIRST TIME I SAW THIS PLACE. VIRGIL GUIDED ME, AND I WROTE IT ALL DOWN--THE SEVEN CIRCLES, THE PUNISHMENTS, CERBERUS THE THREE-HEADED GUARD DOG-- EVERYTHING!"



THE FUNNY THING IS, THERE ISN'T MUCH MENTION OF HELL IN THE BIBLE-- JUST ONCE IN MARK, AND A FEW TIMES IN MATTHEW.



"BUT FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS, THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH STRESSED THAT ONE OF THE GREATEST PLEASURES OF HEAVEN...



"... WAS THAT YOU GOT TO WATCH THE TORTURES OF THE DAMNED IN HELL!"



THEY DON'T DO THAT SO MUCH NOWADAYS, OF COURSE, BUT STILL--WITH ALL THE PEOPLE WHO ARE DOWN HERE NOW...



...IT'S A LOT MORE INTERESTING THAN HEAVEN!

# CHAPTER NINE

## IS THAT ALL THERE IS?

### BEYOND DEATH

This is it — the crux of the Big Mystery: What happens after death? People have searched for the Answer in many different ways — they've tried to communicate with the spirits of the deceased (*page 211*), they've studied the last words of accomplished persons (*page 205*), and they've researched the experiences of people who have "come back to life" after being clinically dead (*page 202*). After all that, they — and we — remain clueless. And so we leave you with the consolation of philosophy, some words from Michel de Montaigne — essayist, Frenchman, and pretty good guy.

Have a nice life.

SOMETIMES PEOPLE START  
OFF FOR THE CEMETERY AND  
DON'T QUITE MAKE IT. THEY  
ALMOST DIE, AND THEN  
THEY COME BACK.  
THEY'RE THE PEOPLE  
WHO HAVE ...

# NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCES



THE PEOPLE  
WHO STUDY  
THESE EVENTS.  
-- THEY  
CALL THEM  
"NDE's"  
-- HAVE FOUND  
SOME COMMON  
ELEMENTS.

**HONK!  
HONK!**

OH GOD!  
THAT KID--  
CAN'T STOP--!



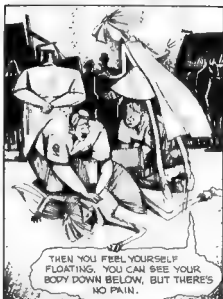
FIRST, OF COURSE, YOU  
HAVE TO BE CLINICALLY  
DEAD.

**WHOMP**

LIKE  
SO.



THEN YOU FEEL YOURSELF  
FLOATING. YOU CAN SEE YOUR  
BODY DOWN BELOW, BUT THERE'S  
NO PAIN.



YOUR  
VISION  
IS CLEAR,  
YOUR  
MIND IS  
FOCUSED...

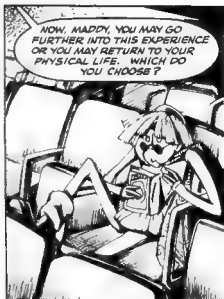
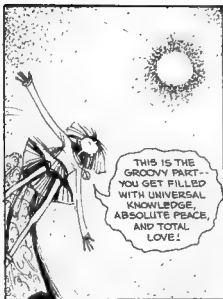


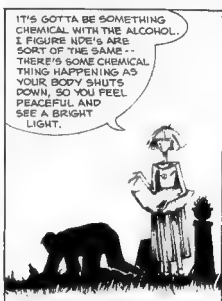
...AND THEN,  
JUST AS THINGS  
GET INTERESTING,  
YOU'RE SUCKED INTO  
THIS BLACK TUNNEL!



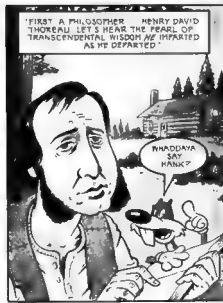
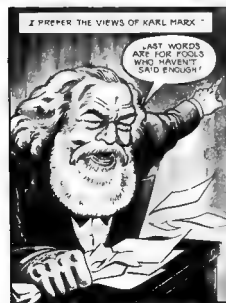
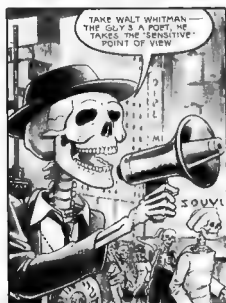
AND YOU  
GO SHOOTING  
THROUGH THE  
BLACKNESS,  
HEADING  
TOWARD A  
BLINDING  
LIGHT!

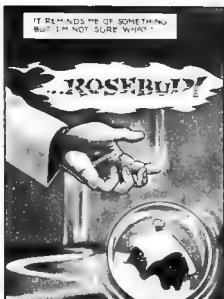
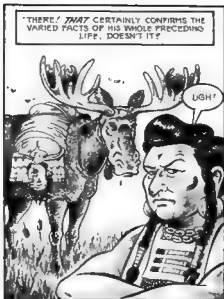


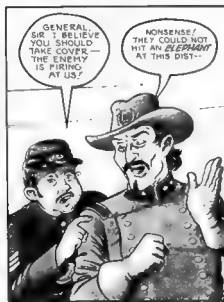






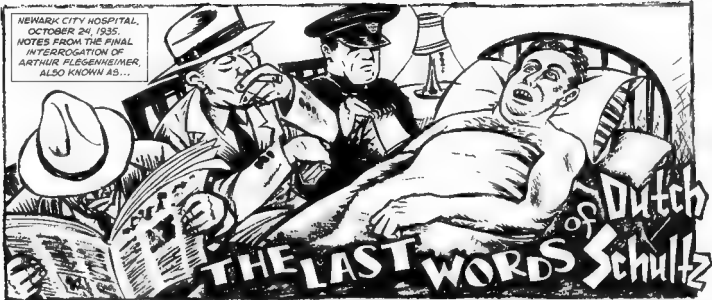








NEWARK CITY HOSPITAL,  
OCTOBER 24, 1935.  
NOTES FROM THE FINAL  
INTERVIEW OF  
ARTHUR FLEGENHEIMER,  
ALSO KNOWN AS...



# THE LAST WORDS of Dutch Schultz



EARLIER IN THE EVENING, DUTCH MET  
SOME ASSOCIATES AT THE PALACE  
CHOP HOUSE TO DISCUSS BUSINESS--  
BOOTLEGGING, THE POLICY RACKET,  
AND SO ON



WHEN DUTCH MADE A QUICK  
TRIP TO THE MEN'S ROOM



A HITMAN BURST IN AND SHOT A  
.45 SLUG THROUGH HIS INTESTINE,  
GALL BLADDER, AND LIVER



DUTCH WAS TAKEN TO THE HOSPITAL,  
FILLED FULL OF MORPHINE, GIVEN  
LAST RITES, AND QUESTIONED BY  
DETECTIVES

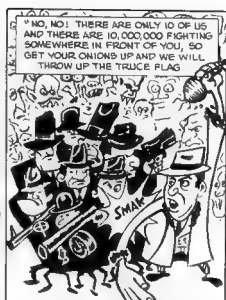


THE POLICEMAN WHO RECORDED THE  
INTERVIEW DOCUMENTED TWO  
HOURS' WORTH OF THE STRANGEST  
LAST WORDS OF ALL TIME.



GEORGE DON'T  
MAKE NO BULL  
MOVES

YOU GET  
AHEAD WITH THE  
DOT AND DASH  
SYSTEM.





THROUGHOUT HISTORY, CERTAIN PEOPLE --SHAMANS, PAGAN PRIESTESSES, NECROMANCERS--HAVE ATTEMPTED TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE DEAD.



IT WASN'T UNTIL THE RISE OF SPIRITUALISM IN 19TH-CENTURY AMERICA THAT SPEAKING TO DEAD PEOPLE BECAME A MIDDLE-CLASS PARLOR TRICK.



SPIRITUALISM BEGAN IN 1848 WITH MARGARET AND CATHERINE (KATE) FOX, TWO SISTERS WHO CLAIMED THAT SPIRITS OF THE DEAD COMMUNICATED WITH THEM THROUGH RAPPING OR KNOCKING SOUNDS.



THE SPIRITS' MESSAGES WERE REMARKABLY SIMILAR TO THE BELIEFS OF THE FOX GIRLS' QUAKER FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

QUESTION THREE--  
SHOULD SLAVERY  
BE ABOLISHED?



ONE RAP!  
THAT'S AYES!



**S**PIRITUALISM QUICKLY BECAME MORE FORMALIZED, WITH LEADERS CALLED "MEDIUMS" AND MEETINGS CALLED "SEANCES".



**B**Y THE 1860 S, IT WAS THE FASTEST-GROWING RELIGION IN AMERICA.

**O**F COURSE, THE SPIRITS WEREN'T CONTENT TO JUST KEEP RAPPING. SOON THEY WERE TALKING, BLOWING TRUMPETS, AND APPEARING AS "ECTOPLASM" FROM THE MOUTHS OF MEDIUMS.



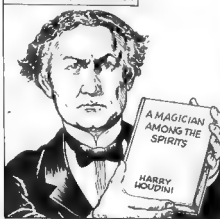
**E**VENTUALLY, MOST OF THE MORE SPECTACULAR "COMMUNICATIONS" WERE SHOWN TO BE FRAUDULENT.

**F**INALLY EVEN MARGARET FOX 'FESSED UP.

I REGRET TO SAY THAT THE RAPPING SOUNDS WERE THE RESULT OF THE CRACKING OF THE JOINTS OF OUR LARGE TOES.



**T**HESE REVELATIONS SLOWED THE GROWTH OF SPIRITUALISM, BUT FAILED TO KILL IT ENTIRELY. IN THE 1920S THE FAMOUS MAGICIAN HARRY HOUDINI WROTE A BOOK ON DETECTING SPIRITUALIST FRAUDS.



**N**EVERTHELESS, HOUDINI CONTINUED HIS EFFORTS TO LEGITIMATELY COMMUNICATE WITH THE DEAD. PRIOR TO HIS OWN DEATH, HE ARRANGED A SECRET SIGNAL WITH HIS WIFE.



**E**VERY OCTOBER 31, MRS. HOUDINI WOULD ATTEMPT TO CONTACT HER HUSBAND -- AN ANNUAL RITE SHE CONTINUED UNTIL HER OWN DEATH.





PERHAPS THE SPIRITUALISM CRAZE DEVELOPED PARTLY IN THE QUEST FOR A WAY TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE NOT-QUITE DEAD. DURING THE 1800'S THERE WAS A GENERAL FEAR OF "PREMATURE BURIAL."



ONE ELABORATE DEVICE, INVENTED BY THE RUSSIAN COUNT KARNICE-KARNICKE, WAS TRIGGERED BY EVEN A SINGLE BREATH FROM A PERSON MISTAKEFULLY BURIED ALIVE.



A FLAS WAS RAISED, A BELL RANG, A LIGHT FLASHED, AND A BOX OPENED TO LET AIR INTO THE COFFIN AND TO ALLOW THE PERSON TO SPEAK.



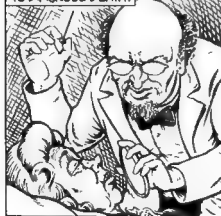
EVEN WITH SUCH ELABORATE PRECAUTIONS, LIVING PEOPLE WERE OCCASIONALLY INTERRED.



HOW HORRID! WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE IT IS? SOME PRACTICAL JOKE, I SUSPECT.



IN THOSE DAYS IT WAS OFTEN DIFFICULT TO TELL IF SOMEONE WAS TRULY DEAD OR MERELY COMATOSE. DOCTORS HAD TO RELY ON FAINT SIGNS OF BREATHING OR THE ABSENCE OF PAIN TO DIAGNOSE DEATH.



EVEN NOW, WITH THE MOST MODERN EQUIPMENT, IT'S NOT ALWAYS POSSIBLE TO SAY FOR SURE. TAKE THE CASE OF MILDRED CLARKE OF ALBANY, NEW YORK.



IN 1994 THE ELDERLY MS. CLARKE WAS FOUND ON THE FLOOR OF HER APARTMENT—BLUE, COLD, STIFF, AND UNCONSCIOUS.



EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS AND THE COUNTY CORONER PRONOUNCED HER DEAD.

**S**HE WAS TAKEN TO THE HOSPITAL MORGUE AND PLACED IN THE 40-DEGREE COOLER, WHERE SHE STAYED FOR OVER AN HOUR...



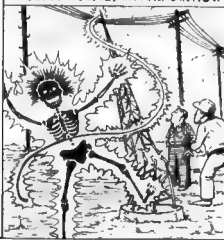
...UNTIL A TECHNICIAN NOTICED SHE WAS BREATHING, AND HAD HER TRANSFERRED TO THE INTENSIVE CARE UNIT.



**T**HE NEXT TIME MS. CLARKE DIED, THE DOCTORS CONFIRMED IT WITH AN EKG.



**E**VEN ELECTRONIC MONITORS FAILED TO DETECT SIGNS OF LIFE IN VETERINARIAN JERRY MIDDLESWART AFTER HE WAS ELECTROCUTED IN KANSAS IN 1989.



**A**FTER THE HOSPITAL EMERGENCY TEAM WORKED ON HIM FOR NEARLY AN HOUR, HE WAS OFFICIALLY DEAD FOR 40 MINUTES --UNTIL A NURSE NOTICED HE WAS BREATHING AGAIN.



**N**OWADAYS, THE MOST COMMON REPORTS OF COMMUNICATION WITH THE DEAD ALSO INVOLVE ELECTRICITY--OR AT LEAST AN ELECTRICAL DEVICE: THE TELEPHONE.



**A** PERSON RECEIVES A CALL FROM A CLOSE FRIEND OR RELATIVE...



...AND THE CONVERSATION PROCEEDS NORMALLY...



...UNTIL THE PERSON REALIZES THAT THE CALLER HAS RECENTLY DIED.



**E**LECTRICITY, ELECTRONICS, PHYSICS,  
DEATH--



--ALL ARE  
MYSTERIOUS  
PHENOMENA  
TO MOST  
PEOPLE.

**W**HEN HE DIES, DAVID HUGHES OF COLORADO SPRINGS HAS ARRANGED TO BE BURIED WITH HIS LAPTOP COMPUTER, MODEM, AND CELLULAR PHONE.



**DAVID PLANS TO GO ON-LINE TO THE INTERNET FROM THE GREAT BEYOND.**

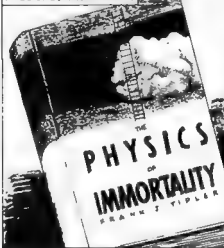


COM. DEAD. BURIED  
B-71 No...? Is anyone here? :)  
.DN dt 1 m dead. Wanna chat?

**A**CTUALLY, MODERN PHYSICS DOES OFFER SOME HOPE FOR SURVIVAL AFTER DEATH--THROUGH COMPUTERS.



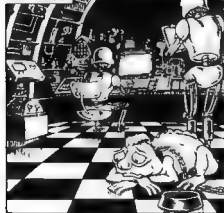
**P**HYSICIST FRANK TIPLER, A PROFESSOR AT TULANE UNIVERSITY, HAS RECENTLY PUBLISHED HIS THEORY.



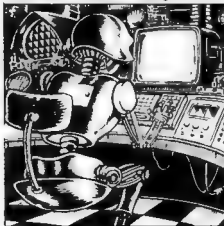
**F**IRST, ROBOT EXPLORERS WILL COLONIZE THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE.



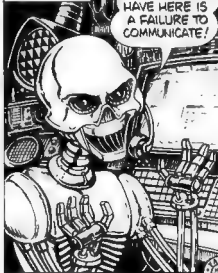
**T**HEN THEY'LL USE THEIR TECHNOLOGICAL SKILLS TO RECREATE ALL HUMAN BEINGS AS VIRTUAL HUMANS--EXTREMELY COMPLEX COMPUTER PROGRAMS REPLICATING INDIVIDUAL BIOCHEMICAL MACHINES.



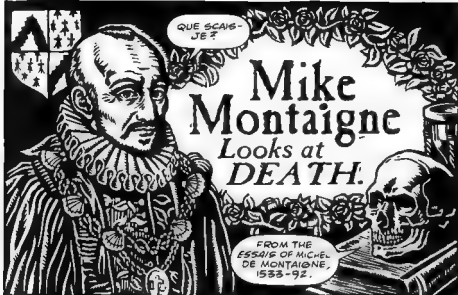
**T**HIS "VIRTUAL RESURRECTION" WILL SEEM REAL TO ALL THE VIRTUAL HUMANS WHO EXPERIENCE IT--BUT IT ISN'T SCHEDULED TO OCCUR UNTIL A FEW HUNDRED-THOUSAND YEARS FROM NOW.



**U**NTIL THEN...



WHAT THE DEAD  
HAVE HERE IS  
A FAILURE TO  
COMMUNICATE!



## WRITER

### BRONWYN CARLTON

Since 1987 Bronwyn Carlton has been the writer, producer, and host of the *Truckstop Teaparty* radio program (and its most popular feature, "News of the Dead") on WFMU-FM. Formerly a columnist for the *New York Press*, her work has appeared everywhere from big-budget international arts magazines to squatty little European comix. Under an assumed name, she has a really great day job as an editor with a major comic book publisher.

## LETTERS

### ROD OLLERENSHAW

Rod has a last name that originates in Derby, England and means "Dweller by the Alder Grove." In real life, he dwells in New Jersey.

### GAIL BECKETT

Gail is a graphic artist, logo designer, and colorist. She has lettered and colored *Flash Gordon* and *Spider-Man* daily and Sunday strips, books for TSR, Continuity, Dark Horse, Malibu, Penthouse, Marvel, and of course, DC/Paradox.

## ARTISTS

### NICK ABADZIS

Nick Abadzis (deceased), was the earthly pseudonym of the prophet Moth Rop Pleebus, a herald of the eternal diva goddess, Xa. He is currently listening to a rather fine dub CD. (Page 116)

### MARK BADGER

Mark has drawn lots of comics. Along with the coolest cartoonists in the world, his work appears in *Instant Piano*, a comic done just for the fun of it. (Page 71)

### GLENN BARR

Glenn's recent projects have included the graphic novels and comics *Cliff's Wild Life*, *Technocracy Blues*, *Mars on Earth*, and *Brooklyn Dreams* for Paradox Press. His animation work includes *Ren and Stimpy* and *Baby Huey*. (Page 36)

### RUSSELL BRAUN

Russell died once as a child, but was revived quickly, though some say not completely. Despite this, he can proudly say he draws the best glowing spleen in the business. (Page 165)

### STEVE BUCCELLATO

Born in New York City, Steve now draws and colors comics in Venice, California. He is grateful to Paradox Press for providing a reason to deduct his four months in Paris from his taxes. (Page 133)

### DAVID CHELSEA

Read David Chelsea's ultra-revealing graphic novel *David Chelsea In Love*. David's next books are *Welcome to the Zone*, from Kitchen Sink, and a book on perspective. (Page 104)

### TOMM COKER

Tomm lives in California. This page was drawn while listening to David Bowie, Jane's Addiction, The Beatles, Frank Zappa, Charles Mingus, and Jim Croce. Special thanks to Larry Ross. (Page 96)

### MIKE COLLINS

Mike lives in Wales with his wife and three daughters. He's a founding member of O.L.A., a multimedia arts co-operative, and (with David A. Roach) runs *Freakhouse*, a comics and commercial graphics studio. (Page 160)

### DONALD DAVID

Donald David was imprisoned in the bowels of a Canadian art school for attempting to prove that comics were a valid medium for self-expression. To this day, he is haunted by the experience. (Page 216)

### AL DAVISON

A black belt in karate who performs his own plays, Al Davison lives in London with his lover Maggie. Born paralyzed (spina-bifida), he wasn't expected to live/walk. Life's funny sometimes. (Page 57)

### STEVE DILLON

Steve Dillon was born in London in 1962, became a professional comics artist in 1978, and has drawn a lot of stuff since then. (Page 23)

### D'ISRAELI D'EMON DRAUGHTSMAN

I live in Sheffield, England with my mummy and a nice kitty. I enjoyed doing this book lots. Please send more pictures of dead babies. (Page 189)

### FELIKS DOBRIN

Feliks was born in Kiev, U.S.S.R. in 1962 and came to the United States two years ago. He was the artist of *Welcome Danger*, the first comic ever produced in the Ukraine. (Page 202)

### RANDY DuBURKE

All that needs to be said about me was said in my almost best-selling 4200-page autobiography *Leaving A Stain*, published by Put-On Press. I am also the artist on *Hunter's Heart*, a graphic novel in the Paradox Mystery line. (Page 147)

**KIERON DWYER**

A professional for seven years, Kieron has pencilled, inked, colored and/or painted *Captain America*, *Batman*, *Robin*, *Hellraiser*, and *Lobo*. He is very proud of his work on *The Torch of Liberty*. (Page 40)

**DUNCAN EAGLESON**

The series of space-time events collectively labeled "Duncan Eagleson" have demonstrated a variety of reproducible results: his work has appeared in *Sandman* and *Shade* (Vertigo), *Storytellers* (Piranha), and *The Witching Hour* (Millennium). (Page 112)

**HUNT EMERSON**

Hunt Emerson has drawn "underground" comics for twenty years, including Knockabout Comics' *Lady Chatterly's Lover*, *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*, and the highly acclaimed *Cosanova's Last Stand*. (Page 62)

**JOHN ESTES**

John Christian Estes is a graduate of the Academy of Art College, San Francisco. Primarily a painter, he's done two graphic novels, *Streets* (DC), and *Tales to Astonish* (Marvel), trading cards, and book covers. (Page 20)

**KIRK-ALBERT ETIENNE**

Kirk has been pencilling and inking comics for the past few years. He is the artist on *The Project*, an upcoming Paradox Fiction graphic novel. (Page 186)

**JIM FERN**

Jim started as an inker on various Marvel titles in 1983. He began pencilling in 1987, and has drawn *LEGION '90*, *Detective*, *Adventures of Superman*, and most recently the *Scarlett* series for DC. (Page 180)

**SHARY FLENNIKEN**

Shary lives in Seattle, Washington with two dogs, three cats, and a thousand walking sticks (insects). She spends most of her time drinking coffee and taking care of her pets. (Page 195)

**RENÉE FRENCH**

Renee is the writer/artist of *Grit Bath*, published by Fantagraphics Books. She is currently working on *The Surge* (a graphic novel for Fantagraphics) and "The Ninth Gland," a *Dark Horse Presents* series. (Page 173)

**JOHN GARCIA**

I've drawn for *Open Space* (Marvel), *Medal of Honor* (Dark Horse) and Jim Vance's *Owlhoots* (Kitchen Sink). My finest work was for Harvey Kurtzman's *New Two-Fisted Tales* (Byron Preiss). (Page 78)

**RICK GEARY**

Rick's comics and illustrations have appeared in various magazines. His work has been collected in four volumes, including *Housebound* with Rick Geary and *Prairie Moon and Other Stories*. (Page 153)

**MICHAEL T. GILBERT**

Creator of the cult-classic hero Mr. Monster, Michael also writes and draws scripts for *Batman*, *Donald Duck* and *Cracked*. He and his wife, Janet, live in rainy Eugene, Oregon. (Page 86)

**REBECCA GUAY**

Rebecca's work has appeared in *Cricket Magazine* for Children, *Topps' Star Wars Series II*, and various Marvel and DC Comics. She is currently the regular penciller for DC/Vertigo's *Black Orchid*. (Page 76)

**MIKE HADLEY**

Born 1964. English publications include *Deadline*, 2000 *AD*, *Strip*, *Toxic*, *Sonic the Comic*, and *Heartbreak Hotel*. Question: Does Jonathan Frakes actually play the trombone? P.S. Thanks, Jo. (Page 103)

**KIM HAGEN**

Kim is from Denmark, where he shares an art studio called "Pinigt Selskab" with eight other artists. His most recent work is for *Negative Burn*: "The Lad Who Wished to Meet Fear." (Page 101)

**CRAIG HAMILTON**

Craig lives in the Deep South and hates mediocrity. Went to Catholic school, developed good handwriting, and thanks the goddess for a special shoemaker e.f. named Ray. (Page 177)

**DANNY HELLMAN**

Hail the new dawn! Early next year, Untermensch Hellman will be rocketed to the lunar surface to do battle with Wippy the Two-Headed Death Slarg. Never forget, he gives his life to save us all. (Page 43)

**FRED HEMBECK**

Having been responsible for *Fred Hembeck Destroys the Marvel Universe*, Hembeck is no stranger to weird death. He lives in upstate New York with wife Lynn and daughter Julie. (Page 100)

**GRAHAM HIGGINS**

Has contributed to *Punch*, *Knockabout Comics*, and *Fortean Times*. Taught comic art in college and prison. Owns no cats. (Page 53)

**ED HILLYER**

Ilya "The Terrible" has worked for everyone (DC, Marvel, Dark Horse, Deadline, Lundra, Fleetway, Kodansha) but has refused to self-publish with *The End of the Century Club* Go figure. (Page 47)

**NGHIA LAM**

Nghia was born in a country that no longer exists. He now lives in the deserts of San Diego, where he enjoys the company of blowfish and blond women. (Page 29)

**ROGER LANGRIDGE**

Roger is the artist of *Zoot*, an obscure black-and-white published by Fantagraphics, and has worked on *Deadline*, *Judge Dredd*, and for anybody else who will pay the rent. (Page 119)

**BATTON LASH**

Batton Lash is the creator of *Wolf & Byrd*, *Counselors of the Macabre* and the writer of the *Archie/Punisher* crossovers. His cartooning appears in the other Factoid Big Books. (Page 15)

**STEVE LEIALOHA**

Okay *Quack*, *Spider-Woman*, *The Black Hood*, *Tryptoe the Acid Dog*, and *Jack the Lego Boy* are but a few of the titles I have worked on in the past twenty years. (Page 184)

**GRAHAM MANLEY**

On moonlit nights, Graham Manley can sometimes be seen wandering aimlessly among the heather covered hills and glens of Scotland. His interests include graveyards and dismembering Barbie dolls. (Page 106)

**MARK MARTIN**

Mark Martin's work has appeared in *Nickelodeon Magazine*, *Cracked*, *Duplex Planet*, and scads of other periodicals, including his own *20 Nude Dancers* 20 and *Tantalizing Stories*. (Page 97)

**CHRIS MCLOUGHLIN**

Chris was born on November 1, 1971. His work in comics includes other Big Book segments *Mirror*, *Mirror* by Nick Vince, and phone calls when he should be in bed. (Page 141)

**LINDA MEDLEY**

Little Linda would still like to be a housewife when she grows up. (Page 126)

## **MITCH O'CONNELL**

Mitch is an award-winning, nationally-exhibited fine artist whose work has appeared in *National Lampoon*, *Spy*, and *Playboy*, among many publications. (Page 123)

## **MICHAEL AVON OEMING**

*Boneheads* in *Ghost Town* and sometime *Judge Dredd* artist, enjoys Jim Morrison poems, Brady Bunch reruns, and Star Wars. He believes in UFOs. (Page 60)

## **JOE ORLANDO**

A leading writer-editor-designer-cartoonist-illustrator in comics since 1950, Joe is also the Vice-President/Creative Director for DC Comics, and the Associate Publisher of *MAD Magazine*. (Page 68)

## **TAYYAR OZKAN**

Tayyar is a Turkish-born Kurd living in New York. His artwork has appeared in *World War III Illustrated* and *Heavy Metal*. He drew *La Pacifica*, written by Joel Rose and Amos Poe, the first graphic novel in the Paradox Mystery line. (Page 64)

## **TIM PERKINS**

Artist based in Blackburn, England, producing pencils, inks, and colors for DC, Marvel, Marvel U.K., *2000 AD* and *Defiant*. Present work tentatively titled *Pathfinders* for an independent British comics company. (Page 108)

## **WOODROW PHOENIX**

Woodrow Phoenix doesn't care to think about the afterlife too much, since he'll find out soon enough anyway. Do you know that there are more people dead now than living? (Page 139)

## **FRANK QUITELY**

Born Glasgow, Scotland, 1968. Unsuccessful spell in Glasgow School of Art. Dabbled in small press while freelancing for several years. Became a full-time comic artist in early 1993. (Page 17)

## **RICHARD PIERS RAYNER**

Russ Manning Award-winner for Most Promising Newcomer in 1989, Richard has illustrated *Dr. Fate*, *L.E.G.I O N*, *'90 Swamp Thing* and *Hellblazer*. He is also drawing *Road to Perdition*, a graphic novel in the Paradox Mystery line, written by Max Allan Collins. (Page 92)

## **HARRY S. ROBINS**

Robins is a San Francisco "underground" cartoonist who has appeared in *Weirdo*, *Rip Off*, *Anarchy*, *Young Lust*, and numerous others. He is one of the heads of the notorious Church of the Sub-Genius. (Page 99)

## **JAMES ROMBERGER**

James has recurring nightmares about hiding bodies. He has a graphic novel in progress called *The Forgotten Ones*, with Marguerite Van Cook and A.B. Faulkner, about the Rakowitz case. (Page 169)

## **GREG RUTH**

Ruth was conceived on December 28, 1970 and born on October 3, 1991. This extraordinarily long carriage period won him and his mother front stage in the Rizzuto Bros. Carnival and Freak Show. (Page 82)

## **RICHARD SALA**

Richard's books — *Hypnotic Tales*, *Thirteen O'Clock*, and *Black Cat Crossing* — are filled with creepy killers and mesmerizing mystenes. His animated serial, *Invisible Hands*, appeared on MTV's *Liquid Television*. (Page 98)

## **ZINA SAUNDERS**

Zina's credits include painted cards for *Superman*, *Man of Steel*, *Star Wars*, and *Mars Attacks*. She is just finishing the last of a 96-card set entitled *Native Americans*. (Page 157)

## **TRISTAN SCHANE**

Tristan Schane was born in Brooklyn, New York, October 1968. (Page 10)

## **BOB SMITH**

Born: Aberdeen, Washington, 1951. Art education. BFA, Western Washington State University, 1974. I've been inking comics for DC since 1975. About every ten years, Andy Helfer lets me pencil something. (Page 192)

## **ROBIN SMITH**

Robin was the art director for *2000 AD*, and an artist on *Judge Dredd*. He is the illustrator of *The Bogie Man* and *Green Candles*, two graphic novels in the Paradox Mystery line. (Page 130)

## **STEVE SMITH**

Steve has been using the alphabet for many years. Other examples of his penmanship and pictures may be found in *Negative Burn*, *Aesop's Desecrated Fables*, and along the 101 freeway. (Page 211)

## **ALEC STEVENS**

Alec almost enjoys music more than art, being guitarist/composer in the Christian rock band The Quest. He cites Bartók, Stravinsky, Coltrane, Focus, Glassharp, and early Zappa as favorites. (Page 121)

## **BARRON STOREY**

Illustrator and teacher, was proud to see many of his students become notable in comics. His own "big break" came when Bill Koebe and Dave McKean introduced him to Kevin Eastman and the *Marat-Sade Journals* were published by Tundra. (Page 198)

## **S.M. TAGGART**

If you're not familiar with Séan's Jerky Boys illustrations, you must have spent the last six months in a coma. Whatever. (Pages 8 and 209)

## **JEAN-PHILIPPE VIDON**

Artist of the graphic novel *Tout Va Bien* (with writer/film director Jan Bucquoy), which became the movie *The Sex Life of Belgians*. Currently has a project with writer Bruce Benderson. (Page 102)

## **ALEX WALD**

Alex is the human host for the astral entity known as Sun Demon Leo. He recently did an illustration for Hustler. Please don't tell his mom. (Page 205)

## **ANDREW WENDEL**

Former portraitist for *The New Yorker*, fueled by passions for music, cycling, and the bizarre, Andrew also had a piece in *The Big Book of Urban Legends*. He is currently employed by a rival company. (Page 31)

## **MARK WHEATLEY**

Mark holds the Inkpot and Speakeasy Awards for his creations, including *Mars* and *Breathmaker*. Current projects: *Radical Dreamer* for Blackball Comics and *Batman: Legends of the Dark Knight* and *Argus* for DC. (Page 74)

## **PHIL WINSLADE**

Phil lives and works in Birmingham, England with his wife, Pippa, 75 teddy bears, and his overdraught account. He hopes someone buys *Goddess* from DC/Vertigo (for the bears' sake). (Page 34)

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